

Hafa Adai!

Tudela sworn in as Saipan councilor. **PAGE 2**

NMI Aeronautics to represent the NMI at nationals. **Page 5**

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75¢

No money to fund pay hike

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The salary increase of Commonwealth elected officials is on hold until a funding source is identified.

House Bill 19-3 HS1 HD1, an act to enact a new base salary schedule and increase the salary ceiling for classified civil service government employees and all elected officials, is now Public Law 19-83.

The elected officials referred to in the law are the governor, lieutenant governor, representatives,

senators, and the four municipal mayors (Saipan, Northern Islands, Tinian and Aguiguan, and Rota).

House Bill 19-3 HS1 HD1 became law on Jan. 20 even without being signed either by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, who was off-island attending the inauguration of President Donald J. Trump, or Senate President Arnold I. Pala-

cios (R-Saipan) who was acting governor at the time. Torres is expected to be back on Saipan this weekend.

The House passed HB 19-3—introduced by Speaker Rafael

See MONEY on Page 4

CUC top post vacant since July 2015

By FERGIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Except for the position of executive director, all senior management positions at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. are now filled.

In CUC's status report on Friday, CUC legal counsel James Sirok told the U.S.

See CUC on Page 4

» **Except for executive director post, all senior level management positions are now filled**

'Freedom Air' assets not enough to cover debt'

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Development Authority doubts that liquidating the assets of the defunct Freedom Air would be enough to cover its outstanding balance to affected government agencies in the CNMI and Guam.

Freedom Air's aircraft assets on Saipan were already auctioned off in December 2015, but only brought in about \$10,000, much to the dismay of CDA and the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

When asked for comments about the Guam

See FREEDOM on Page 4



ERWIN ENCINARES

Representatives of Bridge Capital LLC meet with Rep. Joseph "Lee Pan" Guerrero, Saipan Mayor David Apatang, and Saipan Mayor's Office staff yesterday about the Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio Beach Road Pathway workout stations.

BEACH ROAD PATHWAY Workout stations to be installed

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A private company is partnering up

with the CNMI government to install workout stations along the Beach Road Pathway.

Bridge Capital LLC, in coordina-

tion with the Saipan Mayor's Office, would be replacing ruined or missing exercise equipment at six different workout stations along the pathway,

officially called the Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio Beach Road Pathway.

According to Bridge Capital chief operating officer Jody Jordahl,

Bridge Capital is "committed and looks forward to working with the mayor of Saipan in the beautification

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INSIDE



BUSINESS

President Donald Trump moves swiftly to advance controversial oil pipelines.

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FOCUS

Donald Trump is dogged by insecurity over his loss of the popular vote.

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LIFE & STYLE

Celebrity chefs from Paris to Los Angeles swear by Kampot pepper, a Cambodian spice.

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Local

Tudela sworn in as Saipan councilor



MARK RABAGO

Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council member is sworn in by Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang as council chair L.J. Castro, right, and vice chair Diego Kaipat look on during the short ceremony at the Mayor's Office yesterday.

The 14th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council is now finally complete after a third member, Antonia Tudela was sworn in yesterday at the Saipan Mayor's Office in Oleai.

Tudela, who chaired the previous council, now joins chair L.J. Castro and Diego Kaipat in the municipal council. Castro and Kaipat won their seats during last November's general election. No candidate ran for the third council post.

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, with the concurrence of Northern Islands Mayor Je-

rome Aldan, nominated Tudela as councilor.

The SNILD tackled Tudela's nomination yesterday morning and she was unanimously voted in to fill the vacant council seat.

Tudela then joined Castro, Kaipat, friends, and family members at the mayor's office where Apatang swore her in to her seventh two-year term at the council.

"I'm very happy now to continue serving the community. I'm so humbled by the confidence given to me by Mayor Apatang and Mayor Aldan and all the delegation

members. I will try my best to again serve the community," she told media shortly after being sworn in.

Tudela said she wants to continue the rebuilding of the municipal council building at the back of the post office, further strengthen the neighborhood watch program, assist the Northern Marianas Trades Institute, and again help in staging the annual memorial ceremony for civilian casualties of World War II at the American Memorial Park.

Apatang congratulated Tudela for her appointment and said he can't wait to

work with the council now that it's complete.

"I'm looking forward to working with the council and hopefully we can come up with better ideas to improve Saipan and they will also be working with Northern Islands Mayor Aldan as far as Northern Islands issues are concerned. I think this group is going to be very active," he said.

Castro said he's grateful for Apatang's confidence in the former council chair.

"I'm looking forward to working with her. When you think about all three of us,

even though I'm the chair, I'm the youngest. So vice chairman [Kaipat] and councilor Tudela bring a lot of experience to the table and that's something that can help me in my capacity as I have two guiding hands," he said.

Kaipat said he's happy that

Tudela, a former colleague in the 13th council, is back where she belongs.

"I also look forward working here again and follow up on the agenda the previous council started, like the conference on Pagan," he said.

(Mark Rabago)

Man arrested for domestic violence

An employee of the Tinian Mayor's Office was arrested for allegedly beating a woman, threatening to kill police officers, and twice spitting on the face of a police officer on Tinian on Monday night.

Eugene Atalig San Nicolas Jr., 21, was arrested for two counts of assaults and battery, resisting arrest, fleeing/eluding police officers, and assault. His bail was set at \$10,000 cash but he was allowed to post only 10 percent or \$1,000 cash. Preliminary hearing will be on Feb. 1 at 9am.

Assistant public defender Tillman Clark was appointed as counsel for San Nicolas. Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds appeared for the government.

A police officer responded to an apartment on Monday at 10:11pm after police received a call for assistance.

It was learned that San Nicolas, who had already left the apartment, allegedly banged the woman's head against the door, threw her on the bed, slapped her face, pulled her hair, and dragged her out of the room during an argument.

The police report did not

indicate whether the alleged victim is San Nicolas' wife or girlfriend.

The woman allegedly tried to get her children but San Nicolas pushed her out.

Later, San Nicolas came on a scooter and stopped in front of the apartment. He yelled profanities at the two police officers, showed them his middle finger, and sped away.

San Nicolas passed by the apartment again and when a police officer told him he would be arrested for domestic violence, the defendant shouted profanities at the officer and sped away. The officer chased San Nicolas but lost sight of him.

San Nicolas later went back to his apartment and locked himself in. He refused to come out and threatened to shoot two responding police officers.

The officers barged inside the room and arrested San Nicolas, who allegedly resisted and challenged the officers to a fight.

On the way to the police station inside a patrol car, San Nicolas allegedly spat twice on the face of one officer and threatened to shoot the two.

(Ferdie de la Torre)

Emon Lodge donates \$550 to Reyes family

Emon Lodge No. 179 has donated \$550 to the family of C3C Paolo Reyes, who remains in a coma following a Jan. 15, 2017, vehicular accident in Colorado Springs, CO.

Incoming Worshipful Master Wilfredo "Boy" G. Ching said the brotherhood raised the money during their regular meetings. Reyes' father, Pete, an architect at the Department of Public Works, is a member of Emon Lodge No. 179.

Ching said they plan to raise \$1,000 more in the coming weeks.

He asked everyone in the community to pray for Paolo's health and that he wakes up from the coma.

Arnel Metran, incoming junior warden of the local freemason group, said he's also praying for Paolo's quick recovery.

Paolo is a sophomore in the U.S. Air Force Academy and academy parents, days after his accident, set up an account at the crowdfunding website,

www.youcaring.com.

The site also provided an update of Paolo's condition and it read: "The family of C3C Paolo Reyes would like to thank everyone for their concern and well wishes for their son. Paolo remains in a deep coma with no change in his condition. He is still in the ICU. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers."

As of 7:10pm yesterday, 605 donors have given nearly \$36,000 to the online fundraising effort. To donate, type <https://www.youcaring.com/paoloreyes-739508>.

According to KKTU News, the accident Paolo was involved in was caused by a driver of a pickup truck who ran a red light, triggering a three-vehicle crash that left seven injured.

Daniel Aaron Simpson, 23, was charged with vehicular assault and leaving the scene of an accident KKTU News quoted Colorado Springs police. (Mark Rabago)



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'Rota benefits from supplemental budget'

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rota is going to benefit from the supplemental funding that has been allotted to the two schools on the southernmost island of the CNMI, according to Education Commissioner Cynthia Deleon Guerrero.

Both Sinapalo Elementary School and Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Jr. Sr. High School would each get \$150,000 as allocated under Public Law 19-75, a law that provides an additional budget to various government agencies.

The Public School System received a total of about \$10 million in additional funding, in which a total of \$300,000 went to Rota.

In Guerrero's visit to Rota last Jan 13-15, she was able to meet with Mayor Efen Atalig, Sen. Teresita Santos, Sen. Justo Quitugua, Sen. Steve Mesngon, as well as Municipal Council members, resident directors of Rota, and the schools' leadership.

Her trip to Rota resulted in a project priority list to target the problems of the two schools.

"Various concerns primarily on instructional materials, facilities, and campus maintenance was discussed and the team addressed all the concerns that were raised," said Deleon Guerrero.

The list was divided into three parts, each addressing what project to be prioritized for each school, and another to address common problems of both schools.

PSS plans to build student benches for SES, along with repairs and/or replacement of school walls and leaks at the SES library.

PSS also plans to install window shutters for the library to protect the books and other technological equipment in the library.

For RHI, PSS plans to pave the road and parking as well as repair damaged fencing and air conditioning.

Doors and windows of classrooms will be replaced.

"I wanted to note that we tried to open one of the doors, and the door nearly collapsed on us," Deleon Guerrero told the Board of Education at their last meeting. "That is how much it needs repairs."

Deleon Guerrero also cited numerous safety hazards on the priority list, such as the damaged concrete of the cafeteria building that has exposed rebar; the removal and replacement of the old concrete pathway that is cracked and unstable but is located in the middle of the campus; and the assessment of the second floor of the cafeteria building to ensure safety of the floor before continued use is permitted.

According to Deleon Guerrero, a teacher has been allowed to use the second floor of the cafeteria by the RHI interim principal at the time because the Office of Insular Affairs' did not flag it as hazardous in their previous visit.

Deleon Guerrero requested the teacher to use another classroom until further notice, as the second floor's stability was still unclear.

BOE member Herman Guerrero agreed with the move, saying, "Safety of the children is paramount."

Also targeted for RHI is the renovation of its parking and pathway for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

PSS plans to purchase a truck for the RHI custodian, who continues to use his personal vehicle for waste disposal.

Both RHI and SES would have a flagpole and flag base to indicate which side of each school is the entrance as well as the purchase of a tractor and yard maintenance equipment for each school.

Rota, like Tinian, is also set for an increase in bandwidth and the acquisition of necessary equipment to increase connectivity.

"We acknowledge the total

of \$300,000 is not sufficient but we continue to work with the leadership to identify further funding sources," said Deleon Guerrero.

Newly sworn in BOE member and Rota representative Herman Atalig was happy that Rota is finally receiving some attention.

"The commissioner [Deleon Guerrero] is very sincere in trying to look after the welfare of the students and the condition of the facilities," said Atalig. "I commend her because she shows that she truly cares for the students. I believe that in her heart, mind, and actions that she is for the students. I can see she is very sincere, and I thank her so much."

How may we assist you?

"How may I assist you?" is a question guests are frequently asked when calling Hyatt Regency Saipan. It signifies the hotel's desire to provide authentic hospitality and find ways to "assist" guests in making their Hyatt experience a truly memorable one. Hyatt Regency Saipan echoes the very same question to all non-profit organizations on the island: "How may we assist you?"

Through its corporate responsibility platform Hyatt Thrive, Hyatt Regency Saipan will host the 21st Annual Charity Golf Classic. This annual event is a vehicle to raise funds on behalf of the Make-A-Wish Foundation and another local non-profit organization of our choosing.

The organization must be active within one of the four pillars of Hyatt Thrive: environmental sustainability, economic development and investment, education and career readiness, and health and wellness.

Last year, the Hyatt Regency Saipan 20th Annual Charity Golf Classic raised over \$50,000. The beneficiaries were the Make-A-Wish Foundation and the Northern Marianas Trades Institute.

Here's how to apply:

The non-profit organization must write a letter stating how it helps (or can help) make the local community a place where employees want to work, guests want to visit, our neighbors want to live and investors want to invest. The letter must also state how partnership with Hyatt Regency Saipan can help in advancing its mission, vision and goals. The organization must also be active within one of Hyatt Thrive's four pillars. For more information visit thrive.hyatt.com

Submit your non-profit organization's information pack and address it to the following contact details:

Josephine Mesta
Director of Human Resources

Hyatt Regency Saipan
PO Box 5087 CHRB Saipan
MP 96950

The selection of the non-profit organization will be decided based on the votes cast by the executive committee members of the hotel. The information pack must be submitted on or before Friday, Feb. 20 2017. (Hyatt)

Zhen Yu Su makes dean's list

NEW PALTZ, NY—SUNY New Paltz congratulates Zhen Yu Su of Saipan for being named to the Dean's List for the fall 2016 semester.

Dean's List designation is reserved for students who excel academically and earn at least a 3.3 grade-point average in a semester with a full-time course load.

Located in the heart of a dynamic college town, 90 minutes from metropolitan New

York City, the State University of New York at New Paltz is a highly selective college of about 8,000 undergraduate and graduate students.

New Paltz, one of the most well-regarded public colleges in the nation, embraces its culture as a community where talented and independent minded people from around the world create close personal links with real scholars and artists who love to teach. (PR)

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MONEY

From Page 1

S. Demapan (R-Saipan)—on Nov. 29; the Senate also passed it on Dec. 6. It was transmitted to the Governor's Office on Dec. 12 where it awaited Torres' signature.

The CNMI Constitution states, though, that "the governor shall have 20 days in which to consider an appropriation bills and 40 days in which to consider other bills. If the governor fails either to sign or veto a bill within the applicable period it shall become a law."

The 20 and 40 days mentioned on the CNMI Constitution are calendar days and there are instances that bills become laws during weekends, according to the administration.

Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), the House Ways and Means chairman, said that PL 19-83 has been enacted. The actual increase, however, has been put on hold until a source of funding is identified.

"As it stands today, PL 19-83, is enacted without any funding source for the new salary levels of elected officials. There will be no actual increase in salary paid to any

elected official until the governor can identify new revenues available for appropriation," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune* in a text message.

"This means that all elected officials will continue to be paid at the previous salary amounts despite the enactment of this law."

In the last Legislature, the House made several supplemental appropriations after Torres signed the budget for fiscal year 2017. The business gross revenue taxes partly funded the appropriations.

An incentive

Speaker Demapan said raising the salaries of public servants to federal standards is an incentive, especially among rank-and-file government workers. It would also give incoming workers that would start at Pay Level 1 more incentive, he said. This also goes to elected officials where the pay raise would attract more qualified candidates to consider having a career in public service.

The bill drew a lot of flak when it was still being considered. "There's much resistance and attack to those of us who supported this measure but I stand firm [on PL 19-83]. It is the right and timely thing

to do for our public servants today and in the future," said Demapan.

"Not to compete with the private sector but I believe it can also contribute to increasing the morale and retention of our public servants and also attract a more competitive and qualified body of workers and elected officials. This is especially so for elected positions," he added.

"I hope this measure will attract our people—especially our professionals, both on-island and off-island—to serve in an elected capacity. As honorable as the position is, I personally don't see my elected position as a long-term career and I'm sure most of my colleagues feel the same. Our time is limited and I hope new and fresh minds are incentivized by this measure and step up to the plate like we have."

Demapan said most elected officials sacrifice a lot when entering public service. "This is also not common knowledge but most elected officials, especially from my experiences as a representative, have sacrificed better paying jobs and business opportunities in order to serve our people in such a capacity," said Demapan.

"Aside from the pay cut,

there are also many out-of-pocket expenses that comes with being a legislator and surely the same goes for being a governor, lieutenant governor, and mayor in order to further help our people. This includes medical referral fundraiser expenses, attending and donating to community functions, funerals, and helping families in need, to name a few."

Minorities' concerns

Minority leader Rep. Edmund S. Villagomes (Ind-Saipan) said the close to 80 percent pay hike of all elected officials remains one of the concerns that they raised during the House session on Nov. 29.

"In my opinion, it is an unconstitutional bill. On top of that, if I'm not mistaken, it may be an unfunded liability. It is a pretty big jump, unlike some low-income employees who will only have a 5-percent increase," said Villagomez, who was one of five lawmakers who voted against the bill.

Saipan representatives Blas Jonathan T. Attao, Edwin K. Propst, and Vinnie F. Sablan, and former lawmaker Ralph N. Yumul were the other members of the minority that voted no to HB 19-3.

Villagomez suggested that

it would have been more appropriate to take care of other obligations.

He said incumbent elected officials should not become a member of the Advisory Commission on Elected Official's Compensation, the group that conducted the study on the elected officials' salaries in the mainland and other territories.

"In my opinion, to have elected officials as members of the committee, is not right. Voting on it is already a conflict of interest."

Elected officials on the committee were Sens. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan), and Rep. Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero (R-Saipan), and former representative Antonio P. Sablan.

Former Senate president Pete P. Reyes, Office of the Governor special assistant for management and budget Virginia C. Villagomez, and Saipan Chamber of Commerce secretary Alex A. Sablan were the other members.

CUC

From Page 1

District Court for the NMI that the executive director position has been vacant since July 14, 2015. Since then, CUC has received and reviewed 29 applications for this position.

Sirok said CUC has transmitted several names to EPA for qualification vetting and that EPA has fully approved three of these individuals who met the qualification requirements.

CUC has interviewed two of the three EPA vetted applicants, and one other applicant that the EPA did not initially approve.

Sirok said EPA requested further information concerning this applicant before it would approve the applicant as being qualified for the position.

Of the three applicants vetted by EPA, Sirok said, upon the interview of one, during the interview process certain information came to light about the applicant that caused the CUC board of directors to determine that it would not be in the best interest to hire the applicant.

Sirok said one EPA vetted applicant was interviewed and hired for the then vacant posi-

tion of deputy executive director of water and wastewater.

At the same time, he said, CUC offered the executive director post to the applicant who was not initially approved by EPA. That applicant declined CUC's offer, Sirok said.

The third and most recent EPA vetted applicant, Sirok said, withdrew his name. An interview was already scheduled for this person but he then decided to withdraw prior to the actual interview.

Sirok said currently there is no one sitting within CUC for this position and that CUC continues to advertise the opening for the executive director's position within the CNMI, and within the U.S. and internationally through the publications of various utility organizations such as the American Public Power Association, the Northwest Public Power Association, the American Water Works Association and the Water Environment Federation.

This vacancy in a senior level management position at CUC is an ongoing major concern of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. government.

Right now, Gary Camacho, the Power Division manager, is the acting executive director.



ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

JON PEREZ

Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation chair Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan), center, vice chair Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan), left, and floor leader Rep. Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), right, join the other members of the delegation for a group photo after yesterday's organizational session on Capitol Hill.

FREEDOM

From Page 1

International Airport Authority's plan to sell off Freedom Air assets on its property, CPA executive director Chris Tenorio and CPA board member and airport facilities committee chair Barrie Toves told *Saipan Tribune* that they need to consult with their legal counsel first before releasing a statement.

CDA, on the other hand, was disheartened.

"We got rid of all the [Freedom Air] assets, and it was not really encouraging on our side," said CDA loan manager Oscar Camacho.

"We did our best to try and

auction all the aircrafts that were here in the Saipan airport but the auction didn't give us that much. [Freedom Air's] stuff only sold for about \$10,000," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Camacho said some of the aircrafts lacked engines, while one of the aircraft at hand was only a shell.

"The bulk of the value is the ones in Guam," said Camacho.

CDA previously stated in *Saipan Tribune* archives that an estimated \$1.3 million could be obtained from auctioning Freedom Air assets at the Guam airport.

The Guam International Airport Authority obtained lien over the assets of Freedom Air after finding out that CDA failed to perfect its se-

curity interest in Freedom Air assets due to CDA's failure to file a financing statement with the Guam Department of Revenue and Taxation.

Despite failing to obtain lien over Freedom Air assets, Camacho said the person of guarantee, former Freedom Air owner Joaquin Flores, is the signatory to the CDA loan. "The loan is still a debt. ... We have real estate assets as collateral [on Saipan], Rota, and Guam," said Camacho.

"I am doubtful that it [auction] would get to cover all the debt, but we are hoping that GIAA garners a good auction this Feb. 2," he added.

"CDA entered into an agreement [with GIAA] that they proceed with the auction.

It has been a long time since making that decision and it seems just about time that they push through with it. I guess there were internal things that [GIAA] had to overcome before arriving at this point."

Freedom Air owes CPA \$1.2 million and CDA exactly \$906,225.17, which is a \$2.2 million debt.

GIAA has announced this week in a notice signed by GIAA executive manager Charles H. Ada II that Freedom Air assets are to up for auction this Feb. 2, 2017 at Building No. 17-80 Admiral Sherman Blvd., Tiyan Guam.

For more information, contact (671) 646-0325/6 or vanessap@guamairportnet or joej@guamairport.net.

WORKOUT

From Page 1

of the island."

Jordahl said that Bridge Capital has set aside an estimated \$25,000 budget for the workout station installation, which would start today and is expected to be finished on Feb. 10.

Along with the workout stations would be instructional posters for their proper use.

Rep. Joseph "Lee Pan" Guerrero thinks this is a good way to not only get children off bad influences, but also to keep them fit.

"We want our kids to be healthy. We need to come up with ways to get them healthy," he said.

Saipan Mayor Dave Apatang agrees.

"This is really beautiful. Everybody could use these

workout stations for their own physical conditioning. We see a lot of people here at night walking and jogging. I am sure there are younger ones that are utilizing all these equipment," said Apatang.

Bridge Capital believes the workout equipment along the Beach Road Pathway were installed after the construction of the pathway in the late 1990's.

Stretching from Kilili Beach all the way to the Kristo Rai Parish, six workout machines would be installed.

Bridge Capital would be responsible for the manpower, supervision, and maintenance of the workout stations once completed.

The workout machines consist of a log-hop station, bench-dip station, T-bar station, chin-up station, push-up station, and a parallel bar station, spread all throughout the Beach Road Pathway.

NMI Aeronautics to represent the NMI at nationals



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI Aeronautics team, from left, Gaeun "Melody" Yang, Ian Cataluna, Ann Margaret Norcio, Daniel Villarmero, and Chenoa Bunts-Anderson.

Congratulations to the CNMI Aeronautics team for yet another win for the CNMI.

The CNMI Aeronautics team won the right to represent the region after dominating the state level test. The team will be competing and representing the Pacific this April in Washington D.C., for the 2017 Real World Design Challenge Competition national championship.

The winning CNMI team is composed of Ann Margaret Norcio, Daniel Villarmero, Ian Cataluna, Chenoa Bunts-Anderson, and Gaeun "Melody" Yang.

Suspected drug trafficker pleads guilty

A 51-year-old man arrested last November for allegedly selling methamphetamine or "ice" on Saipan pleaded guilty to illegal possession of a controlled substance yesterday in the Superior Court.

Liu Zhia Shan will be sentenced on June 21, 2017.

The bench trial set for March 6, 2017, was vacated.

After the hearing, Shan, also known as Papa, was remanded into the custody of the Department of Corrections pending his sentencing.

The Office of the Attorney General originally charged him with trafficking of a controlled substance and illegal possession of a controlled substance, which carry a total maximum sentence of 30 consecutive years imprisonment.

Last Jan. 17, the OAG removed the charge of trafficking of a controlled substance.

The remaining count of illegal possession of a controlled substance carries a maximum sentence of five

years imprisonment.

Shan was found in possession of crystal methamphetamine on April 1, 2016, on Saipan. Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho noted that Shan has no prior conviction. Assistant public defender Tillman Clark is counsel for Shan. Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds appeared for the government.

Members of the CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force and Drug Enforcement Administration Saipan Post of Duty arrested Shan last November.

Police said a cooperating defendant was able to buy \$230 worth of "ice" from Shan during a "buy-walk" operation last April 1 in Chalan Kanoa.

During the operation, the cooperating defendant met Shan outside a poker arcade in Chalan Kanoa, then the two proceeded to a parking of a store in Chalan Kanoa. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

team, these individuals represent all public and private schools of the CNMI. They completed the challenge as a self-led group, devoting every day to working in local establishments until they had their final design, business plan and notebook completed.

The CNMI Aeronautics gives thanks to:

- Advisers Claus Bier and Dr. Timothy Kock, of the Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service;
- The mentors who assisted in the design approach: Manoj

Rahmatpura from Pratt and Whitney specializes in aerostuctures and has advised the team in the structural parts of the aircraft. Capt. Christina Mastracchio was a mentor obtained after the previous team's tour at the Anderson Air Force Base in Guam. As a pilot and an Air Force Academy and MIT graduate, she was able to provide the team with necessary feedback on our aircraft's aerodynamics.

- Douglass Brennan, general manager of Atkins Kroll Toyota based on Saipan, who provided critical comments on

the team's proposed business case. The team expresses great gratification for Brennan, who was always willing to provide them with a facility to work in even after the wake of Typhoon Soudelor.

- Emory Frink, one of their trusted mentors, advised the team to the best

of his knowledge providing logical suggestions on the aircraft's maneuvers.

The team will showcase their winning design at the 2017 CNMI Island-wide STEM Fair this March. (*Saipan Tribune*)

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Sabino-Montes moves closer to \$50K scholarship

Jacob Sabino-Montes, an eighth-grade student at Francisco Mendiola Sablan Middle School, the former San Antonio Elementary School, won the school competition of the National Geographic Bee on Jan. 25, 2017, and a chance at a \$50,000 college scholarship. The school bee, during which students answered questions on geography, was the first round in the 29th annual National Geographic Bee. Thousands of schools around the United States and in the five U.S. territories are participating in the 2017 National Geographic Bee. The

school champions, including Jacob Sabino-Montes, will take a qualifying test; up to 100 of the top scorers on that test in each state will then be eligible to compete in their state bee on March 31, 2017. National Geographic Society will provide an all-expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C., for state winners to participate in the national championship rounds on May 15-17, 2017. The first place national champion will receive a \$50,000 college scholarship, a lifetime membership in the society including a subscription to the *National Geographic*

magazine, and a trip to the Galapagos islands, courtesy of Lindblad Expeditions and *National Geographic*. The national finals will air on television on May 19, at 8pm EST on the National Geographic Channel and NAT Geo WILD, and later

on public television stations. Check local listings for dates and times. Everyone can test their geography knowledge by downloading the “National Geographic GeoBee Challenge” app, with more than 1,000 questions culled from past

bees, available on the APP Store for iPhone, iPod touch, and iPad; from the Android Market; or for NOOK color. National Geographic Society is a global nonprofit membership organization driven by a passionate belief in the power of science, exploration and storytelling to change the world. We fund hundreds of

research and conservation projects around the globe each year. With the support of our members and donors, we work to inspire, illuminate and teach through scientific expeditions, award-winning journalism, education initiatives and more. For more information, visit www.nationalgeographic.org. *(PR)*

Smoking in cars with kids now prohibited

Smoking inside vehicles where minors are present is now prohibited after then-acting governor Arnold I. Palacios signed last week House Bill 19-85 HD2 SD1, which was introduced by Rep. Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero (R-Saipan). HB 19-85 is now Public Law 19-82.

PL 19-82 establishes regulation to ban smoking a cigar, cigarette, e-cigarette or pipe inside vehicles when a person who is under 18 years old is present. Doing so is now unlawful inside the vehicle’s passenger compartment, whether the automobile is in motion or at rest. Persons who are caught violating the law will be fined \$500 for each infraction committed. PL 19-82 states that second-hand smoking causes serious health risks, especially for minors. The scent and smoke of a cigar, cigarette, e-cigarette or pipe circulates inside the vehicle and could inflict serious

long-term effects on minors. “Therefore, action must be taken to protect minors from being negatively affected by the negligence of the smoker(s) inside the vehicle. The Legislature further finds that prohibiting smoking in vehicles

when in the presence of minors can lead to the betterment of our overall environment measures,” states PL 19-82. Studies also show that smoking causes lung cancer, the fifth leading type of cancer in the CNMI behind breast,


cervical, oral, and colon, according to the CNMI Cancer Registry. The CNMI Division of Public Health has also been pushing for bars, hotels, and poker arcades to follow PL 16-46 or the Smoke Free Air Act of 2008 that prohibits smoking in certain places. *(Jon Perez)*

Vinnie re-introduces public hearings bill


Rep. Vinson F. Sablan (Ind-Saipan) has re-introduced his bill that would require three public hearings for any proposed changes in district boundary. House Bill 20-6 was among the 17 measures that were either newly introduced or re-introduced since the House of Representatives held its organizational session two weeks ago. Sablan first introduced this bill in the 19th Legislature as HB 19-190. “Unfortunately, the bill got held up in [Judicial and Governmental Operations] committee. I am hop-

ing my colleagues in the 20th Legislature and the administration see the importance of this bill,” he said. “We need to be vigilant with all of our land dealings with the evident increasing development activity. This bill aims to ensure the members of our community have more chances to be informed and included in the discussions through more public hearings,” Sablan added. The CNMI’s current zoning laws only require one public hearing for the re-zoning of public and private lands. Sablan said a minimum of

three public hearings would give members of the community more chance to participate in the discussions before any action is made. “I would like to propose a minimum of three public hearings so our citizens have more chances to attend such hearings. I am hopeful that by passing this measure, we will begin to see more attendance at all public hearings,” said Sablan. According to the bill, residents whose homes are near sites of proposed minor or major development plan are usually uninformed and unaware of projects. “These residents are exposed to potential hazards via construction, pollution, etc., that will disrupt their health and everyday living. The concerns of the residents must be properly addressed in order to provide the peaceful environment that our residents deserve,” wrote Sablan. *(Jon Perez)*



COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 500237, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: 1 (670) 233-1857 • Fax: 1 (670) 233-1856
Email: info@cnmicasinocommission.com



PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Commonwealth Casino Commission (“Commission”), hereby give notice that the Commission has scheduled a meeting on Monday, January 30, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library (Technology Room) in Susupe, Saipan.

The following Agenda will be discussed:

- I. PRELIMINARIES:**
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Roll Call
 - C. Adoption of Agenda
 - D. Adoption of Minutes – December 20 & December 28, 2016
- II. REPORTS:**
 - A. Report by the Chairman
 - B. Report by the Executive Director
- III. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- IV. OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. Casino Surveillance and Monitoring
- V. NEW BUSINESS:**
 - A. Casino Key Employee – Provisional License: (1) HE, Jiahao “Rex”
 - B. Casino Key Employee – Regular License: (1) LAU, Hio Ian “Candy”
 - C. Casino Vendor – Provisional Licenses: (1) Triple J. Saipan, Inc. (2) Triple J. Rentals (Micronesia), Inc. (3) Ceri Pacific Investment LTD (4) Certis Security (Macau), Limited (5) Docomo Pacific (Saipan), Inc. (6) VSR Industries, Inc. (7) RCL-Guam Technologies (8) Gold Mantis Construction Decoration (CNMI), LLC (9) H3C Technologies Co. Limited (10) Agilysys NV, LLC. (11) Inhesion (Asia) Ltd.
 - D. Casino Service Provider – Provisional Licenses: (1) CMC Trading Engineering (International) PTE. LTD. (2) In Systems (Macao) Limited (3) Paltronics Australasia Pty. Ltd. (4) PCCW Solutions Limited (5) Rypax Furniture Limited
 - E. Rebate Options for Junket Operators – Discussion
 - F. Consideration and adoption of proposed Order regarding required Anti Money Laundering training and policies and other IPI Trainings
- VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**
 - A. Report by the Legal Counsel
 - B. Personnel Matters
- VII. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS:**
 - A. Updates from IPI:
 - 1. Opening Date of the Initial Gaming Facility
 - 2. Status of the Bond or Other Financing
 - 3. Workforce Development
 - 4. Changes in IPI Upper Management
 - 5. DPAC Status
 - 6. Anything raised in Public Comments
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Commission may vote to meet in Executive Session. In addition, the Commission may extend its official meeting for another day or more if necessary.

Justin S. Manglona
Acting Chairman

Gemkell Saipan Corp.

is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Sales Associate, Full Time (9)

Responsible for managing the customer’s experience by identifying customer’s needs and recommending or promoting the appropriate merchandise. Sales Associates also process all modes of payment using the POS System and help maintain and enhance the overall appearance of the boutique by maintaining the cleanliness of the store (showcases and displays).

Requires: High School Diploma or a GED with prior work experience in luxury retail sales and must be able to lift at least 15 pound items and carry it for at least 100 yards with or without using a trolley. Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English and Chinese (Mandarin) languages. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Familiarity with the POS System is preferred.

Interested applicants may send their applications or resumes via email to gemkell_recruitment@tanholdings.com. To be considered, resumes/application documents must be submitted not later than February 13, 2017. Applications for Employment are available at the Century Tours Office, Kanoa Resort. Background checks will be required prior to employment.

Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting Agenda

Thursday, February 9, 2017
5:00 PM, Zoning Board Conference Room
2nd FL., Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • www.zoning.gov.mp

A. Preliminary Matters

- 1. Call to Order
- 2. Roll Call
- 3. Adoption of Agenda
- 4. Adoption of 1/12/17 meeting minutes
- 5. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings:

- 1. **Conditional Use Application #2017-0093:** Saipan Ventures Corporation is proposing to operate an outdoor & indoor shooting range. This use is classified as “Amusement, Outdoor” and will be located on TR 22631-2 thru 22631-31, TR 22631- R2, and TR 22631 R/W in Papago. This area is zoned as Rural.
- 2. **Conditional Use Application #2017-0215:** Curtwill Corporation is proposing to operate a Barbeque Stand/ Catering. This use is classified as a “Restaurant, Drive Through” and will be located on lot 005 I 124 in Koblerville. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.
- 3. **Conditional Use Application #2017-0221:** Kimco Enterprises Inc. is proposing to operate a zip-line amusement activity designed to enable users propelled by gravity to travel from the top to bottom of inclined cables through seven towers. This use is classified as “Amusement, Outdoor” and will be located on lot 070 E 02 in As Teo area (past Santa Lourdes). This area is zoned as Rural.
- 4. **Conditional Use Application #2017-0236:** SKT Company Ltd. is proposing to operate a farm with motel village consisting of 50 motel units within 53,939sm of land. This use is classified as a “Motel” and will be located on Lot EA 101-1-1 and TR 22602 in Kannat Tabla. This area is zoned as Rural.

C. Communication

D. Old Business

- 1. Board Review of proposed parking recalculation and justification by Saipan Globe International Group Ltd dba Saipan Globe Hotel, Conditional Use Permit No. 2016-4038 and Zoning Variance 2016-4303

C. New Business

- 1. Proposed text amendments to Article 5 of the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013 (bulk & dimensional requirements and landscaping): sections 503 Beach Road, 505 Garapan Core, 506 Industrial, 507 Mixed Commercial, 508 Public Resource, and 511 Village Commercial.
- 2. Operations Reports (Permitting & Enforcement)

F. Executive (Closed) Session

G. Miscellaneous

- a. Other Matters
- b. Announcements
- c. Next Meeting

H. Adjourn

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT	:	CIVIL ACTION
EMPLOYEES CREDIT UNION,	:	NO. 05-382
Plaintiff,	:	
-v-	:	
MARIANO S. NAPUTI,	:	
Defendant.	:	

THIRTEENTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on November 3, 2006, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot No. 002 G 334, situated in Kagman II, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 08, the original of which was recorded May 14, 1990, as document No. 90-1905, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, February 17, 2017, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 9th day of January, 2017.

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

"Fellows will be in an environment that will foster open mindedness, creativity, and constructive problem solving... Fellows will be better able to lead, not only in their respective industries but in the bigger picture of the communities they serve and the islands in which they live."

PACIFIC CENTURY FELLOWS

P R O G R A M

Marianas Chapter

Bright minds brought together can make a world of difference. With the challenges we face in our CNMI, there has never been a greater need for leaders to start working better together.

The Pacific Century Fellows Marianas Chapter is a non-profit, leadership development program that runs for about one year incorporating periodic sessions covering current issues facing the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Must be between the ages of 25-45
- Must reside in the CNMI for at least 1 year
- Submit completed application
- Provide two (2) letters of recommendation
- Must attend opening weekend retreat
- Must meet minimum attendance requirement

IMPORTANT DATES:

- January 27-February 17, 2017: Application Period
- February 25, 2017: Selection Saturday (Mandatory)
- March 11-12, 2017: Opening Weekend Retreat (Mandatory)

**APPLY
NOW!**

For more information and to apply, please visit us at www.pcf-marianas.com or contact Mel Naputi at (670) 235-0560 ext. 118.

CUC extends final payment date at banks

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has extended the final date of accepting payment at the

Bank of Guam, Bank of Hawaii, and Bank of Saipan branches. Payments must be made on

or before the date indicated on their Delinquency/Disconnection Notice and the amount

of payment is not less than the minimum amount due on their Delinquency/Discon-

nection Notice.

Previously, CUC allowed the banks to accept its customer

Water outage in Garapan, Navy Hill, Chinatown

There is currently an emergency water service interruption in the Garapan, Navy Hill and Chinatown areas due to an electrical motor

failure of three high producing wells.

Water operations personnel of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. are currently

making the necessary repairs that are expected to be completed by Saturday, Jan. 28, 2017. Water service hours will return to regular service

hours soon after.

CUC continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information,

contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (CUC)

Scheduled power outage on Saturday

There will be a scheduled power interruption on Saturday, Jan. 28, 2017, from 6am to 11am.

The purpose of the power interruption is to de-energize the primary lines to allow the Commonwealth Utilities

Corp. line crew to safely conduct distribution system maintenance through the installation of primary power poles and relocation of secondary power lines on Isa Drive on Capital Hill. This is an effort to strengthen the integrity of

the distribution circuit.

Areas to be affected include Capital Hill (Isa Dr., Sagua Dr., Hafno St., Mate Dr., Haat Pl., Coastal Dr., Laguna Dr., Trenchera Ln., Nonak Dr.), Sadog Tasi (Rumbantasion Ln., Woosch Dr.,

Tide Lp., Leeset Ln., Sadog Tasi Dr., Acho Tasi Pl., Pila Dr.), and Lower Base (Lalanyok Pl., Pagu Av., Ufa Pl., Manglen Way, Lower Base Dr., Mangrove Pl.)

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, travelers are encouraged to take alternate routes or to ex-

ercise caution when driving through the affected areas.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (CUC)

‘How do you like optional tours on Saipan?’



“How Do You Like Optional Tours [on] Saipan?” is the million-dollar question for this western Pacific island.

TV Tokyo Corp. is producing a four-part series that will bring the Northern Mariana Islands over \$1 million in advertising exposure to Japanese who are interested in overseas travel. The 30-minute program, scheduled to air over four weeks in April 2017, will feature a wide variety of tours activities on the island.

“We’re targeting viewers in their 20s to 40s with this program, and the anticipated ad exposure in Japan is enormous,” said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. “By leveraging in-kind support from the MVA and our on-island partners,

including the Department of Public Lands, which provides filming permits for visiting media groups, we are able to obtain this level of publicity in our major source markets with a minimal cash outlay—a strategic and high return on our investment.”

While on Saipan this month, TV Tokyo covered parasailing, banana boat riding, and snorkeling on Managaha; an ATV tour and biking with Marianas Trekking, a sunset barbecue dinner; shopping at I Love Saipan and Joeten Hafa Adai Shopping Center, marine sports at Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Ni’lala Spa, and various sightseeing locales.

The film group lodged at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan during the shoot. (MVA)

The cast of “How Do You Like Optional Tours on Saipan?” films on Managaha on Jan. 8, 2017.



Tokyo TV films “How Do You Like Optional Tours on Saipan?” on Managaha on Jan. 8, 2017.

PSS AmeriCorps joins AMP Day of Service

On Jan. 16, 2017, PSS AmeriCorps volunteers from Dandan, Koblerville, Oleai, Garapan, San Vicente, and

Francisco Mendiola Sablan elementary schools joined American Memorial Park for a Day of Service.

The park and AmeriCorps joined volunteers around the country to commemorate Martin Luther King Jr. Day by serv-

ing their communities. Over 30 volunteers helped to clean up the Micro Beach area, baseball field, and parking areas.

If you are interested in volunteering, or for more infor-

mation on events at American Memorial Park, contact lead ranger Brooke Nevitt at 234-7207 or 2020 or via email at: brooke_nevitt@nps.gov. (NPS)

payments no later than the due date indicated on their monthly bill. As a convenience for its customers, this change is made to allow CUC customers to be able to pay at a location most convenient for them.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (CUC)

Jobsmarianas.com, the NMI's newest job search platform

Transcend IT Solutions announced yesterday the launch of the CNMI's newest interactive jobs website JobsMarianas.Com and the JobsMarianas.Com mobile app that is now available for free at the Apple App Store and Google Play Store.

The new website and mobile app was developed to provide the community a new platform to search for jobs and for businesses to effectively search qualified candidates.

JobsMarianas.com's algorithm is designed to index keywords on both the candidate's profile and the employer's company profile and job listings, providing seamless and interactive search options to both the job seekers and employers. JobsMarianas.com will match and recommend candidates to employer's job listings based on smart analysis of the candidates' résumé and profile.

The development of the jobsmarianas.com website and mobile app is Transcend IT Solution's way of providing the CNMI another platform to address the workforce issues the CNMI is currently facing. We believe that there are a lot of talents and opportunities in our region that are waiting to be tapped and that job seekers and employers alike are just waiting for another platform that is accessible, intuitive and interactive like JobsMarianas.com.

Employers and job seekers can post their resumes and job listings for free.

Our vision is to make jobsmarianas.com as the main platform for both job seekers and employers to interact and build job opportunities in the Marianas.

Transcend IT Solutions is an Information technology and marketing services company established in 2014 in the CNMI that specializes in finding the right technologies and solutions for businesses. Our knowledgeable and professional team will aid in making the appropriate technology and marketing decisions for any business type. (PR)

Guest chef prepares Lunar New Year buffet at Hyatt

By **MARK RABAGO**
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

A chef on loan from Hyatt Regency Shanghai Wujiaochang is whipping up a feast during Hyatt Regency Saipan's three-day Chinese New Year 2017 buffet.

Kili Café & Terrace will be front in center in the celebration of the Year of Red Rooster at the Garapan landmark

that starts today, Jan. 26, and ends on Saturday, Jan. 28.

Guest chef Tim Zhu, who started cooking in third grade, said he would be cooking a veritable all-star spread of Chinese New Year favorites for Hyatt's guests to welcome the Year of the Red Rooster.

Zhu is preparing crispy fish in dark soy sauce as one of the appetizers. In Chinese, fish sounds like surplus and a dish

made out of fish is a staple in Chinese dining tables during Chinese New Year.

He will also be serving deep fried spring roll, duckling and vegetables. Chinese love eating springs rolls during Lunar New Year as their shape and color remind them of gold bars.

For the main course, one of the dishes is wok fried crab and rice cake. The latter element is vital in Chinese New Year celebrations, as glutinous rice cake roughly translates to getting higher each passing

year. This is important in business as getting higher equates to prosperity.

In keeping with the glutinous rice theory, Zhu will serve strawberry rice mochi with a couple of slices of lychee for dessert.

Zhu, who has 20 years of working as a chef, said the biggest challenge of preparing the Chinese New Year buffet at the Hyatt is adjusting to a Western-style kitchen. He said the temperature of his wok is more intense at his traditional Chinese kitchen in Shanghai.

While shopping for ingredients in a new locale is difficult, he readily accepts the challenge and treats it as a chance to use his ingenuity.

"I learn from school all the dishes I cooked, but adapt from other places depending on what is available and on season," he said, through Hyatt Chinese market officer Mei Demapan.

On a personal note, Zhu said he's very impressed with how relaxed people are on Saipan compared to those in Shanghai where every-

thing is fast paced.

Hyatt executive chef Gabriele Colombo thanked Zhu for serving as the hotel's guest chef for this year's celebration.


"For us in the kitchen it's always a pleasure and honor to learn from a guest chef coming in, especially a chef from Shanghai," he said.

Hyatt's Chinese New Year Buffet is from 6pm to 9pm at the Kili Café & Terrace, Jan. 26-28. It costs \$35 for Club at the Hyatt members and \$55 for regular customers. For reservations, call 234-1234 ext. 26.




MARK RABAGO

Deep fried spring roll, duckling and vegetables is one of the dishes Tim Zhu of Hyatt Regency Shanghai will serve during Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chinese New Year buffet.



**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM**



PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with the "Open Government Act", the Public School System State Board of Education, through their Special Education State Advisory Panel (SESAP), is hereby serving notice to the general public that it will hold a Special Meeting on Monday, January 30, 2017, 5:00pm to 7:00pm at the Annex Room, Pacific Islands Club, San Antonio Saipan. This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcome.

AGENDA

- I. Preliminary Matters
 - a) Roll Call
 - b) Presence of a Quorum
 - c) Adoption of Agenda
 - d) Adoption of Minutes - October 12, 2016
- II. FFY 2015 Annual Performance Report- Final Review
- III. State Systemic Improvement Plan Phase III - Update
- IV. Miscellaneous
- V. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting, but require accessibility such as large print, sign language or interpreter, must call 322-4545. Several days' notice is necessary to allow organizers ample time to make necessary arrangements.

/s/
Carla Torres
Chairperson

/s/
Suzanne Lizama
Director, Special Education Program

Paid for by IDEA, Part B Funds.

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING for Curtwill Corporation

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Curtwill Corporation is proposing to operate a Barbeque Stand/Catering. This use is classified as a "Restaurant, Drive Through" and will be located on lot 005 I 124 in Koblerville. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

Date: February 9th, Thursday
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd flr, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan or via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp no later than 4:30pm, February 8, 2017.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2013).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Kimco Enterprises Inc.

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/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Saipan Ventures Corporation

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NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

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Place: Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd flr, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan or via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp no later than 4:30pm, February 8, 2017.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2013).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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EDITORIAL

Now comes the hard part

President Trump's improbable rise to the White House is complete. Now begins the hard work of governing.

Trump, who was sworn in Friday as the 45th president of the United States, made a lot of bold promises on the campaign trail and in his inauguration address. Many of his supporters are expecting quick fixes and big results.

In his speech, Trump repeated his campaign promise to restore power to average citizens and place "America first" in every decision from trade to taxes, immigration and foreign affairs.

"From this day forward, it's going to be only America first, America first," Trump said during his 16-minute address. Striking the theme that helped to propel him to the Oval Office, Trump talked about transferring power from Washington, D.C., to the people.

"For too long, a small group in our nation's capital has reaped the rewards of government while the people have bore the cost," he said.

Trump promised to look out for the "forgotten men and women" of our country. In particular, the new president promised to build new roads, bridges, airports and railways. He also said his administration would crack down on crime, drugs and gangs. "This American carnage stops right here and stops right now," he said.

In another promise, Trump said he would "unite the civilized world against radical Islamic terrorism, which we will eradicate completely from the face of the Earth."

The president's address was short on details, but long on promises surrounding his main theme of making America "great again." He has never fully articulated exactly what that means. Indeed, despite Trump's dark view, many have argued that America, despite its flaws, is already great.

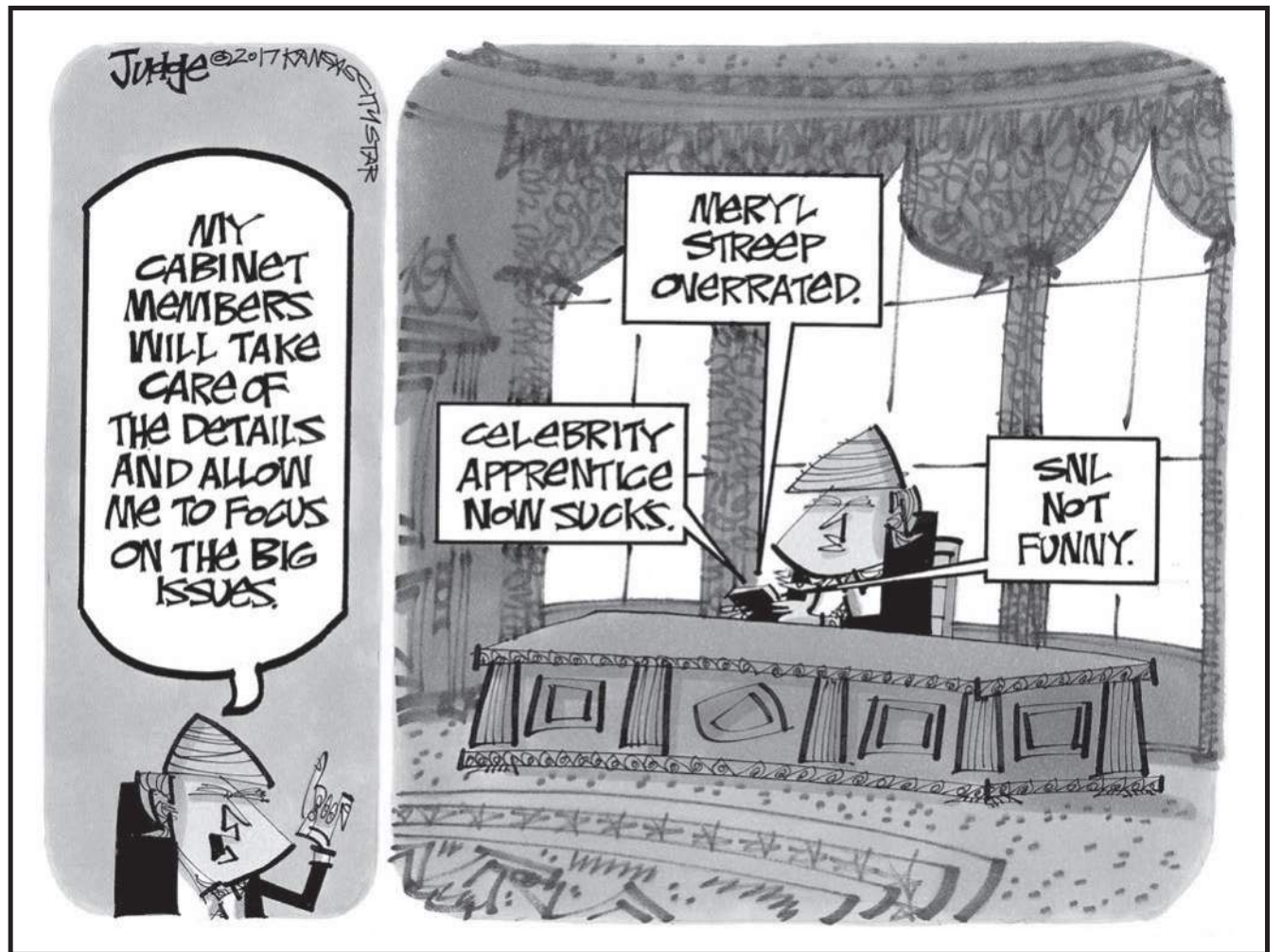
In fact, many of the things that make America so admired around the globe are ingrained in the Constitution, especially the First Amendment, and the rule of law. The Declaration of Independence mentions the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. These basic tenets are intangibles that everyone—regardless of their politics—should be able to agree must be preserved.

The intensity of protests before, during and after Trump's address was an indication of the many skeptics he must win over, including the majority of voters, who did not support him. Nearly 100 people were arrested.

At 70, Trump is the oldest person elected president. He's the first to have neither held a previous elected office or served in the military. Troubling questions remain about conflicts of interest stemming from his business empire as well as broader concerns about his temperament, given his propensity to angrily tweet at all hours.

But Trump's biggest challenge will be to deliver on all his promises. He has promised to build a wall along the southern border, drain the swamp of Washington insiders and lobbyists, seamlessly repeal and replace Obamacare, make big tax cuts, and renegotiate trade deals. As he said in his inaugural address: "The time for empty talk is over. Now arrives the hour of action."

(c)2017 The Philadelphia Inquirer



Donald Trump's unpredictable-but-real reality show

By **ANDREW MALCOLM**
SPECIAL TO MCCLATCHY

Donald Trump begins his hard-won presidential term with seemingly not much going for him. He has the steady allegiance of his loyal supporters, who've stuck with him through thin and thinner.

But 6 of 10 Americans say the country's on the wrong track. Trump has the worst favorable poll rating of any modern incoming president. Gallup puts him at 40 percent; Fox News at 42 percent, 5 points worse than mid-December.

Voters have doubts about his ample flaws and promises. They disapprove of his transition, including distracting tweet fights, which have continued since the inauguration. So the achievement bar is delectably low for Trump.

During inaugural coverage, most TV camera operators and anchors seemed much taken with the size of the crowds, although the immense sizes of Trump rallies during the campaign did not strike them as much.

They also largely pronounced his inaugural address as dark, combative and foreboding, which it was—for business as usual in Washington.

"For too long," Trump said, standing among a small group of D.C. politicians huddled in their reserved dais seats, "a small group in our nation's capital has reaped the rewards of government while the people have borne the cost. Washington flourished—but the people did not share in its wealth."

Fact is, the nation's most prosperous counties do surround the capital, while millions in flyover country who voted for change in Washington time after time got none of it from either party.

"What truly matters," said the lifelong Democrat who ran as a Republican, because who really cares about party this time, "is not which party controls our government, but whether our government is controlled by the people."

Electing Trump, in the most shocking political upset since probably 1948, has pushed the country into a new political era, at least for 48 months. It's one where the usual political measurements and expectations do not apply to the unusual new president. The denizens of Washington, including media, feel off-balance, as they should, which is good.

They underestimate this man, try to judge him as a standard D.C. pol. They highlight his inconsistencies, thinking that should undermine him. He fights back, doesn't care and neither do supporters.

It's outrageous, gravity-defying behavior if you want things to continue as they have been.

As a colleague, Salena Zito, wrote insightfully in The Atlantic:

"The press takes (Trump) literally, but not seriously. His supporters take him seriously, but not literally."

You'll see this play out in coming days and months as the White House press corps tries in vain to hold Trump accountable for such wild, improbable promises as wiping the Islamic State from the face of the Earth.

The media never held Obama accountable for the hundreds of thousands of new jobs that never appeared during 2010's so-called Recovery Summer. However, now they'll eagerly ask Trump where all the new jobs are that he promised. As usual during a GOP presidency, they'll also rediscover the homeless problem.

During the campaign, Trump said the United States should be more unpredictable. He is. And we will need to adjust our thinking too.

As a lifelong political observer, I was certain the minute Trump announced his candidacy 19 months ago that the New York loudmouth had absolutely no chance of capturing the GOP nomination, let alone—LOL—the presidency.

I humbly suggest, therefore, that those who didn't vote for Trump, such as most of those you'll see commenting on him now, hold their fire a good while, give the distasteful new Oval Office occupant a chance, as even a shell-shocked Hillary Clinton suggested back in November.

Trump is a bold deal-maker who makes outrageous opening offers. If he succeeds, we succeed. After all, we've just survived two terms of an ineffective president whose real legacy turns out to be this Donald Trump guy.

Who knows, those "forgotten men and women" Trump often cites just may have sensed something the rest of us missed. Since the Founding Fathers emerging from an unlikely Revolution had faith in our system—and the choices of unknown millions of countrymen who would succeed them—how can we not too at what seems to us a pressing modern moment?

This promises to be a fascinating political year or four, a time rife with uncertainty, unforeseen twists, fears, even distaste and discomfort. But also possibly some positive discoveries as swamp waters drain, if they do.

To be sure, new ways can threaten, as evidenced those five dozen Democrats who avoided inauguration ceremonies to hide in their congressional offices. But new ways can also renew. To paraphrase Hyman Roth in "The Godfather II": This is the president we have chosen. The collective we, as in We the People.

Andrew Malcolm is an author and veteran national and foreign correspondent covering politics since the 1960s. Follow him @AHMalcolm.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Renting an apartment or house

THE CONSUMER CAUTION CORNER

By **MICHAEL J. CYGANEK**
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

This week, the Office of the Attorney General's "Consumer Caution Corner" sets out good practices to follow when renting an apartment or house:

What is a lease?

A lease is a contract that you sign to rent an apartment or house. When you sign a lease, you agree to follow the rules written in the lease. The landlord who owns the apartment or house also must do what the lease says and must obey the law. If you think your landlord is breaking the law or breaking the lease, there are people who can help you.

What should I do before I rent an apartment or house?

Read the lease *before* you sign it. When you sign a lease, you

agree to do what it says. You might not understand everything in the lease. Find someone you trust to help you read the lease. The landlord might make promises. Check that they are written in the lease. After you sign the lease, get a copy and keep it.

What if a landlord won't rent to me because of my credit or a background check?

If you have bad credit, you need to show the landlord that you can pay your rent. The landlord might ask you to: (1) show pay stubs or bank statements; (2) pay more money in your security deposit; or (3) pay your first and last month's rent before you move in.

What should I do if I think my landlord is breaking the law?

You might think a landlord is breaking the law or that a landlord is breaking your lease. Here is what you can do: find out about your rights as a tenant (go to hud.gov) A landlord cannot change the rental deal or refuse to rent to you because of your

race, color, national origin, religion, gender, disability, or family status. That would be discrimination. You can file a complaint about housing discrimination with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Call 1-800-669-9777 or go to hud.gov/fairhousing.

Each week, the OAG's Consumer Protection Education Program aims to provide consumers and businesses with the "know-how" to identify and protect themselves from unfair trade practices and marketplace schemes. If you would like to file a consumer complaint, please pick up a form at the OAG (on Capital Hill) and then please submit it by email to consumer_counsel@cnmioag.org.

We cannot act as your private attorney. If you need legal assistance, we will recommend that you contact a private attorney or legal aid organization. We cannot give legal advice or act as your private attorney.

Liberal reactions to new president are ridiculous

By **MARK DAVIS**
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

Before I launch into a few items taking critics of the new president to task, let me strike a blow for objective rationality: The Obama inauguration in 2009 obviously had a greater attendance and a bigger TV viewership than we saw Friday.

As such, it was silly for Trump's chief voices, Kellyanne Conway and Sean Spicer, to dispute this. Conway's coining of an instantly infamous new term—"alternative facts"—was not the kind of thing to build confidence right out of the starting blocks.

But please, a moment of context. Observing the media convulsions over this, you might have thought the new administration had lied about the cause of a terrorist attack, or what the public might expect from a signature piece of legislation.

But wait. We've seen those fabrications, from Trump's predecessor, and we've seen the media reaction, a comparative collective yawn. So pardon me if I won't hear a lot of finger-wagging from people who do did not recoil at "Benghazi was caused by a video" and "You can keep your doctor."

The inaugural address and resulting protests also drew some telling reaction.

Regarding the speech, I am more than willing to hear the ob-

servations of fans and critics alike. But when the ham-handed criticism comes from supposedly objective reporters, it is a reminder of why the dominant media culture has received such a black eye of late.

Exhibit A: The observation that the speech was "dark," some foreboding moment of calamitous dread. I guarantee you Trump voters did not view it as such. I don't need reporters to fawn over the address as if they were on the campaign staff, but large chunks of analysis seemed gleaned from Democrat index cards.

The first step of solving a problem is assessing it. Trying to combat global jihad? First the level of threat must be assessed, which has not exactly been an urgent task for the last eight years.

Searching for programs that might be of value in addressing drugs, gangs, crime-ridden inner cities? The starting block is observing the depth of the problems, which Trump artfully called "American carnage," earning condemnation from those uninterested in such clear-eyed assessments.

Bulletin: those of us looking to make actual progress out of the various holes our nation has dug are actually inspired by a president willing to speak truth to the status quo for starters.

I also enjoyed the laments of the "missed opportunities" of the inaugural address, offered by helpful souls who thought he should reach out to constituencies who were not exactly friendly to his ascendancy. The suggestion: He should have "reached

out" to women and minorities with specific olive branches designed to make peace.

Has anyone paid any attention for the last year? If not, here's a clue: The new president rejects completely the balkanization and hyphens of identity politics. Want to know what he's going to do for women? For blacks? For Hispanics? He's going to revitalize the economy, strengthen borders and install constitutionalist Supreme Court justices, which will actually help everyone irrespective of sex or race.

Finally, speaking of women, let's dispense with the notion that Saturday's protests were about womanhood. My wife, daughter and radio producer, all women, were repelled by the excesses of that day's main messaging: that American women are crushed by evil oppression from a woman-hating president. They were joined in their distaste by nearly 30 million other women who actually voted for Trump.

So because words matter: This was a march for liberalism (which is fine), populated by marchers who were almost all female (which is also fine). But this does not allow those in attendance to claim some exclusive mantle for the representation of women's interests.

Mark Davis is a radio host in Texas and a columnist for The Dallas Morning News. Readers may email him at markdavisshow@gmail.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Open letter to Guam communities

By now you may have heard that a small force of Marines and sailors are scheduled to conduct a training exercise in Guam later this month. As the officer in charge of the Marines permanently stationed in Guam, I would like to explain to you what we have in mind and why your community is so important to us.

The 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit is the fighting force for the Japan-based Bonhomme Richard Expeditionary Strike Group, soon to deploy in the Asia-Pacific region. Typically, an MEU's mission is to serve as a sea-based quick-reaction force, ready to respond to any crisis that occurs in its area of operations.

Many of the Marines you may see in the coming weeks have served all over the world. But we also have new Marines preparing to make their first deployment. Their lives and the success of potential future missions depend on the training that they accomplish in this community.

Months prior to deployment, an MEU begins intensive training for a multitude of different missions that it must be ready to execute at any time. They conduct much of that training at their home bases in Okinawa and aboard Navy ships at sea. However, to adequately prepare to operate in unfamiliar environments, they seek areas like Guam that offer unique training opportunities with which they are not accustomed.

Marines are trained to fight in every clime and place. Desert training is typically conducted in the deserts of California and

Arizona. Cold weather training is often conducted in the mountains of California and Norway while jungle warfare training may be conducted in Panama, the Philippines, and Thailand.

Training in an urban environment, though, is one of the most challenging environments that we as Marines are likely to face. Maneuvering in congested areas, identifying threats lurking in windows and around street corners, discerning threats among the population are just a few of the challenges that Marines face in an urban setting.

Our aim in Guam is to expose these Marines to realistic scenarios and stresses unique to urban environments, thereby increasing their overall proficiency and readiness. Operating in Guam provides them with realistic conditions they may not be able to replicate aboard their home bases.

The exercise runs from Jan. 23 to Feb 4. While most of the activity will take place aboard the naval and air force bases, residents of the island may see Marines and sailors periodically

throughout the exercise and are likely to notice increased military activities on Jan. 30 and Feb. 2 and 3.

We have coordinated this exercise through the appropriate on-island agencies and village officials including the Guam Police Department, Guam Fire Department, Guam Homeland Security & Office of Civil Defense, and village mayors to ensure the safety and awareness of residents and to minimize any impact in the community.

We understand that our presence may briefly raise the noise level in some villages and we greatly appreciate your patience and understanding. We hope you will bear with us as we complete this critical training exercise.

Col. Brent W. Bien

*U.S. Marines
Marine Corps Activity Guam*

Clarification

Greetings: For students, parents, and community members concerned by the headline, "NMPASI laments SCOTUS case on students with disabilities" (*Saipan Tribune*, Jan. 24) let me help set the record straight.

There has been no high court decision that limits assistance the federal government provides—and requires—for students with disabilities.

But there is a case currently before the U.S. Supreme Court that could lower the federal standards for what public schools have to provide students with disabilities.

That is why in November I filed an *amicus* brief with the Supreme Court, along with 117 other members and former

members of Congress, speaking up for students and their families.

A lower court has ruled that federal law only requires a "just-above-trivial" education for persons with disabilities. I believe that every person in our society should have the opportunity to reach his or her "maximum potential."

And I believe it is the proper role of government to provide the "full educational services" needed so that everyone—of all abilities—can lead independent, productive lives.






To read the *amicus* brief, please visit <http://sablan.house.gov/sites/sablan.house.gov/files/documents/15-827-amicus-petitioner-118-members-of-congress.pdf>.

Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan

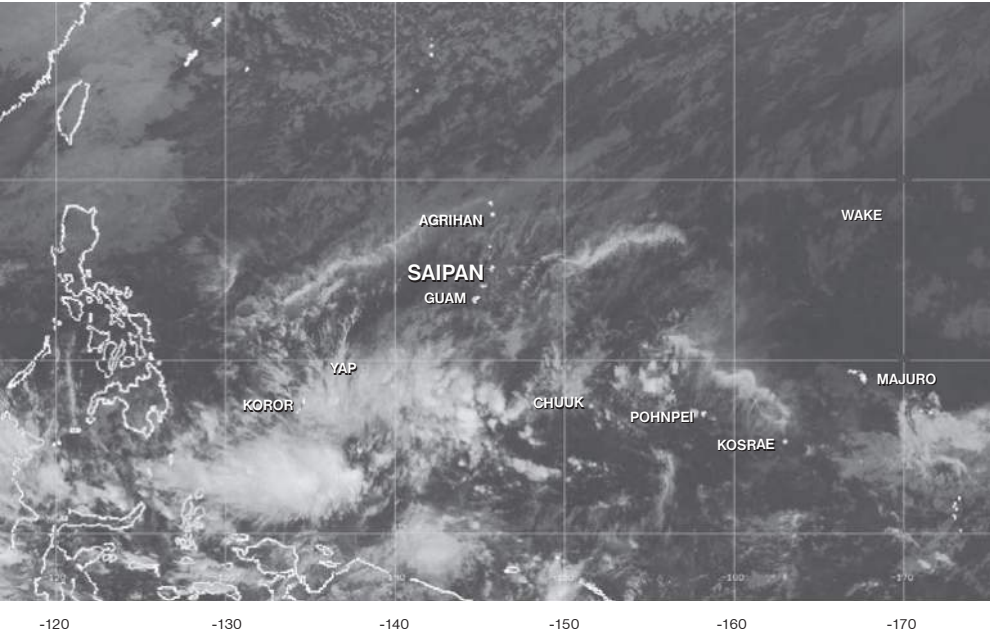
Delegate, Northern Mariana Islands

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Partly sunny with isolated showers and breezy. Northeast winds 20 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 85° ▼ 76°	▲ 85° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 77°	▲ 86° ▼ 77°	▲ 86° ▼ 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:29 AM, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line continues to to be located near the Marianas this morning. The shear line will remain over the local area through at least Thursday and will keep skies mostly cloudy. Even with the clouds showers will remain isolated as deep layer moisture will remain shallow. The GFS continues to show low-level convergence over the Marianas Thursday night through at least Friday night. ECMWF has started to trend in this direction as have a few other models. GFS also suggests that brief periods of scattered showers are possible during that time. Still not confident on adding scattered showers to the forecast but felt mostly cloudy skies Thursday night through Friday to be reasonable. A weak trade-wind disturbance will prolong the mostly cloudy skies through the coming weekend.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA ▲ ▼ °F		
Guam and Rota	Showers	84° / 77°
Palau	Thunderstorm	83° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorm	83° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	86° / 81°
Pohnpei	Showers	86° / 78°
Kosrae	Showers	86° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE ▲ ▼ °F		
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	72° / 61°
Beijing	Sunny	41° / 19°
Hong Kong	Sunny	73° / 63°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	80° / 66°
London	Sunny	39° / 32°
Los Angeles	Sunny	64° / 43°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	84° / 72°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	81° / 55°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	83° / 65°
New York	Showers	52° / 37°
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	46° / 34°
Paris	Sunny	36° / 21°
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	46° / 25°
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	55° / 39°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	58° / 35°
San Francisco	Sunny	17° / -7°
Seoul	Sunny	34° / 16°
Tokyo	Windy	57° / 37°
Washington, DC	Windy	54° / 37°



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
12:48 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.19
7:44 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.77
1:06 PM	LOW TIDE	1.13
6:04 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.86

	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:47 AM	6:12 PM
Friday	6:47 AM	6:13 PM
Saturday	6:47 AM	6:13 PM
Sunday	6:47 AM	6:14 PM
Monday	6:46 AM	6:14 PM

	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	5:01 AM	4:42 PM	-
Friday	5:51AM	5:34 PM	-
Saturday	6:39AM	6:27 PM	-
Sunday	7:26AM	7:21 PM	-
Monday	8:12AM	8:15 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 17, 2017

DEPARTURES			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
TW308	2:35am	6:25am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
TW308	3:05am	6:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	3:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily
ZE582	4:30pm	9:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
7C3451	2:55am	6:10am	1, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	4, 5

SAIPAN-JEJU (CJU)			
7C3433	3:55am	7:30am	3, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	5:40am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			
MU764	1:30am	6:55am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:30am	Daily via GUM
PR1572	5:45am	7:45am	4, 7
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
UO43	1:40am	5:00am	1, 4, 6
HX077	2:15am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/723	3:50am	12:50pm	Daily via ICN
PR1572/318	5:45am	12:20pm	4, 7 via MNL
UA6391/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
LJ651	8:25am	1:45pm	Daily
ZE581	9:50am	3:20pm	Daily
7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
TW307	8:15pm	1:35am+1	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
TW307	8:45pm	2:05am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3452	8:30pm	1:20am+1	6, 7
OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
7C3452	9:35pm	2:15am+1	3, 4

JEJU (CJU)-SAIPAN			
7C3434	10:05pm	2:40am+1	2, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
PR1571	10:25pm	4:45am+1	3, 6
UA192/6395	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
HX076	5:50pm	12:45am+1	3, 7
PR307/1571	6:20pm	4:45am+1	3, 6 via MNL
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN			6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily	SAIPAN TO TINIAN		
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	ROTA TO SAIPAN		
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily	4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily	12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily			
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily			
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily			
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily			
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily			
			5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily			

FBI and CDC to train Guam, NMI for bioterror threat

TAMUNING, Guam—In a first for Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federal

Bureau of Investigation and Centers for Disease Control are hosting specialized training workshops focused on counter-

ing bioterrorism next month.

The “Joint Criminal-Epidemiological Investigations Workshops” will give law enforcers, public health workers, emergency responders, and local government officials a better understanding of possible threats, strategies for disrupting them, and protocols for responding to suspicious incidents.

This workshop has been offered for more than 10 years

in the United States, but never in Guam or the CNMI. It will be held this Feb. 21 and 22 in Tumon, and Feb. 23 and 24 on Capital Hill, Saipan.

The workshop will prepare professionals from different fields and organizations for their roles in the potential event of a bioterrorism incident. It will also be an opportunity for local law enforcement and public health agencies to identify the as-

sets and capabilities available on the islands. Attendees will gain a clear understanding of the expertise and resources each entity has to offer.

The training will benefit emergency preparedness managers, local police, task force officers, FBI, first responders/EMS, fire/hazmat, civil support teams epidemiologists, local and state laboratories, community health specialists, public health nurses and physicians.

There is no cost to attend, but there is limited seating. Agencies interested in sending a participant may register online at <http://www.train.org> (Guam Course # 1067074/ Saipan Course # 1067081). After registering, submit their name, telephone number and email address to (Guam) trini-sha.cabrera@ic.fbi.gov and/ or john.kowatch@ic.fbi.gov / (Saipan) haejun.park@ic.fbi.gov. **(PR)**

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Wanted: Ronnie Sanchez

Crime Stoppers is seeking the public's help for a wanted person. On Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2017, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho signed an arrest warrant



Sanchez

for Ronnie Sanchez, for the charges of theft. Bail is set at \$10,000. Law enforcers are searching for Sanchez. He is still at large. If spotted, do not approach, call 911 or Crime Stoppers should you wish to remain anonymous.

Sanchez, 25, is a Chamorro male, 5'6" tall, weighs 160 lbs, with short black hair and brown eyes.

DPS and Crime Stoppers need your help. Please contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272

should you want to remain anonymous or use our website at www.nmicrimestoppers.net Crime stoppers pays up to \$1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. It pays to call. **(Crime Stoppers)**

High surf seen to subside today

A large northwest swell created by northwest winds behind a cold front near Japan and persistent strong northeast winds are creating a large northeast swell. These swells will maintain hazardous surf for the Marianas the next few days.

A high surf advisory remains in effect until 6pm

today, Thursday. Surf is currently hazardous at 9 to 11 feet on north and west facing reefs. Surf will begin to subside today and could fall below hazardous levels Thursday night.

The northeast swell has decreased enough to allow surf to decrease to below hazardous levels of 7 to 9 feet along

east facing reefs.

Minor beach erosion and strong rip currents are possible in beaches along coastlines facing north and west.

A small craft advisory remains in effect until 6pm Thursday.

Fresh to strong winds of 20 to 25 knots with near gale

gusts are expected through Thursday. Combined seas of 10 to 12 feet will likely remain hazardous through Thursday.

Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid sailing in these conditions. Avoid venturing near reefs along exposed beaches especially those facing north and west as rip currents will be life threatening. **(EOC)**



PARADISE FOR EVERYONE

MVA

The Marianas Visitors Authority introduced its 2017 campaign “Paradise for Everyone” to 110 travel trade industry representatives on Jan. 9, 2017, in Seoul, Korea.



MVA

Popular singing artist Jaehoon Lee, left, and celebrity entertainer Jiyeon Park, center, share their experiences visiting the Northern Marianas during the Marianas Visitors Authority's launch of its 2017 campaign “Paradise for Everyone” on Jan. 9, 2017, in Seoul, Korea.



MVA

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion addressed travel trade industry representatives on Jan. 10, 2017, in Busan, Korea, during the launch of the 2017 campaign “Paradise for Everyone.”



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PILOT HAWAIIAN SEAT COVER **\$11⁹⁵**

ARDSLEY 3PC SPACE SAVER BATH SET **\$29⁹⁵**

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CRAFTSMAN 2.5 GALLON WET/DRY VACUUM **\$39⁹⁵**

CRAFTSMAN 7-1/4" 12AMP CIRCULAR SAW **\$65⁹⁵**

CRAFTSMAN 13" TOOL BAG **\$7⁹⁵**

TELEBRANDS HURRICANE SPIN MOP **\$45⁹⁵**

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EVERLAST BOXING FITNESS KIT **\$35⁹⁵**

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PILOT HAWAIIAN SEAT COVER **\$11⁹⁵**

ARDSLEY 3PC SPACE SAVER BATH SET **\$29⁹⁵**



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Nation

Trump said moving forward with border wall, weighs refugee cuts

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump will begin rolling out executive actions on immigration Wednesday, beginning with steps to build his proposed wall along the U.S.-Mexico border, according to two administration officials. He's also expected to target so-called sanctuary cities and is reviewing proposals that would restrict the flow of refugees to the United States.

The president is expected to sign the first actions—including the measure to jumpstart construction of the wall—Wednesday during a trip to the Department of Homeland Security. Additional actions will be rolled out over the next few days, according to one official.

Trump is said to still be weighing the details of plans to restrict refugees coming to the U.S. The current proposal

includes at least a four-month halt on all refugee admissions, as well as temporary ban on people coming from some Muslim majority countries, according to a representative of a public policy organization that monitors refugee issues. The person was briefed on the details of that proposed action by a government official and outlined the expected steps for The Associated Press.

The officials and the public policy organization's representative insisted on anonymity in order to outline the plans ahead of Trump's official announcements.

On his personal Twitter account Tuesday night, Trump tweeted: "Big day planned on NATIONAL SECURITY tomorrow. Among many other things, we will build the wall!"

Trump campaigned on

pledges to tighten U.S. immigration policies, including beefing up border security and stemming the flow of refugees. He also called for halting entry to the U.S. from Muslim countries, but later shifted the policy to a focus on what he called "extreme vetting" for those coming from countries with terrorism ties.

While the specific of Trump's orders were unclear, both administration officials said Wednesday's actions would focus in part on the president's plans to construct a wall along the southern border with Mexico. He's also expected to move forward with plans to curb funding of cities that don't arrest or detain immigrants living in the U.S. illegally, which could cost individual jurisdictions millions of dollars.

Arizona man who saved trooper: 'I had to help'

PHOENIX (AP)—The man who fatally shot a suspect beating an Arizona state trooper said Tuesday that he doesn't consider himself a hero and he's grappling with taking someone's life.

Thomas Yoxall, of Arizona, gave his account of the dramatic Jan. 12 encounter between the now-dead suspect and the state trooper. Yoxall had not been previously identified.

The 43-year-old cried and his legs shook while he recounted killing Leonard Pennelas-Escobar, who was beating Trooper Edward Andersson "in a savage way" after having shot him.

"To be honest with you, it was very visceral and instinc-

tive. I had to help. I knew I had to help. So there wasn't an option for me," Yoxall said during a news conference at Department of Public Safety offices in Phoenix.

DPS officials say Pennelas-Escobar had been in a single-car wreck that killed his girlfriend on Interstate 10 outside of Phoenix when Andersson arrived. Andersson was putting out flares after coming across the crash when Pennelas-Escobar ambushed him, shooting him in the shoulder and chest before beating him.

Yoxall said he has no military or police training, but is a responsible gun owner. He pulled over when he saw the two men.

Yoxall said Pennelas-Esco-

bar ignored his commands to get off the trooper and that he did what he had to do.

"I firmly believe that that morning I was put there... by God," Yoxall said. "It's difficult to think about that day still."

Yoxall flagged down another driver, 44-year-old Brian Schober, for help. Schober says he used Andersson's radio to call for help and used a first-aid kit from the trooper's car to clean blood from his head.

Andersson is recovering but will require more surgeries.

Yoxall, a maintenance supervisor and aspiring photo-journalist, says he talks often with his pastor and is working to move on from the traumatic encounter.

dated air pollution rulings for several states, renewable fuel standards and limits on the amount of formaldehyde that can leach from wood products. President Donald Trump signed a directive shortly after his inauguration on Friday ordering a "regulatory freeze pending review" for all federal agency rules that had been finalized that have not yet taken effect.

Trump expands anti-abortion ban to all US global health aid

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—President Donald Trump has massively expanded the ban on providing federal money to international family planning groups that perform abortions or provide abortion in-

formation to all organizations receiving U.S. global health assistance. Trump's spokesman Sean Spicer announced Monday that the ban on family planning funding—which was instituted by GOP President Ronald Reagan in 1984 and has bounced in and out of law between Democratic and Republican administrations—had been reinstituted. But it wasn't until the president's memorandum was published Monday night that the expansion came to light. The order directs the secretary of state, in cooperation with the secretary of health and human services, for the first time to extend the requirements in the ban "to global health assistance furnished by all departments or agencies."

Business

Trump OKs oil pipelines

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump moved swiftly Tuesday to advance the controversial Keystone XL and Dakota Access oil pipelines, signing executive actions to aggressively overhaul America's energy policy and deal a sharp blow to Barack Obama's legacy on climate change.

Obama had personally halted the Keystone XL project, which was to bring oil from Canada to the U.S., and major protest demonstrations have frozen work on the Dakota pipeline.

Trump, in his continuing effort to undo the past eight years of a Democratic president, invited the Keystone builder, TransCanada, to re-submit its application to the State Department for a presidential permit to construct and operate the pipeline. The company said it would reapply.

Obama halted the proposed pipeline in late 2015, declaring it would undercut U.S. efforts to clinch a global climate change deal that was a centerpiece of his environ-



President Donald Trump signs an executive order on the Keystone XL pipeline, Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2017, in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington.

mental agenda.

Trump also ordered the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to quickly review and approve construction and easement requests for the Dakota Access pipeline, a project that has led to major protests by American Indian groups and their supporters.

"From now on we are going to start making pipelines in the United States," Trump said from the Oval Office, where he also vowed to require the actual pipe for Key-

stone to be manufactured in America.

Trump's actions four days after he took office came on the heels of his decision to withdraw from a major trade agreement as he upends Obama's policies, winning praise from congressional Republicans. Democrats in energy-producing state also hailed Trump's actions on the pipelines as long-awaited steps to boost jobs and move the country toward energy independence.

Senate Dems propose \$1T infrastructure plan

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senate Democrats on Tuesday offered a plan to spend \$1 trillion on transportation and other infrastructure projects over 10 years, challenging President Donald Trump to join them on an issue where they hope to find common ground.

Democrats estimate their plan would create 15 million jobs. The plan includes \$210 billion to repair aging roads and bridges and another \$200 billion for a "vital infrastructure fund" to pay for a variety of transportation projects of national significance.

An example of the types of projects that could be eligible for financing from the fund is the Gateway Program to repair and replace rail lines and tunnels between New York and New Jersey, some of which are over 100 years old and were damaged in Superstorm Sandy in 2012. The project, which would double the number of trains per hour using the tunnels and help enable high-speed Amtrak service, is estimated to cost about \$20 billion.

Republican leaders are unlikely to embrace the Demo-

cratic plan. It's not clear where Democrats would get the money for their proposal.

Infrastructure was raised at a meeting Monday between Trump and lawmakers from both parties. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said Democrats pitched their plan to Trump and asked for his support. Schumer said he also warned Trump that doing so would mean he'd have to "go against" elements of the Republican Party. Trump acknowledged that and seemed open to working with Democrats, he said.

How a Trump tariff could sideswipe US auto industry

DETROIT (AP)—The threat from President Donald Trump to tax Mexican-made cars sold in the U.S. would throw the auto industry into disarray, analysts say, forcing some uncomfortable choices: Raise car prices or swallow the cost. Stop selling Mexican-made cars in the U.S. but risk losing customers. Move production to the U.S. but make less money.

"I don't think the auto industry would turn up its feet and die, but it would be a terrible shock. It would create mayhem with their profitability," said Marina Whitman, a business professor at the University of Michigan and a former vice president at Gen-

eral Motors Co.

Trump hosted a breakfast meeting early Tuesday with the heads of General Motors, Ford Motor Co. and Fiat Chrysler Automobiles. Prior to the meeting, Trump tweeted that he wants "new plants to be built here for cars sold here." He has warned of a "substantial border tax" on companies that move manufacturing out of the country and promised tax advantages to those that produce domestically.

Automakers expressed optimism after the meeting.

"I think as an industry we're excited about working together with the president and his administration on tax

policies, on regulation and on trade to really create a renaissance in American manufacturing," Ford CEO Mark Fields said after the meeting.

But after closing 13 U.S. assembly plants during the recession to deal with excess capacity, Detroit automakers aren't eager to open new ones, especially now that U.S. sales of new vehicles are slowing. The three automakers currently operate 27 assembly plants in the U.S. and seven in Mexico, according to Oliver Wyman, a consulting firm. GM opened the most recent of those Mexican plants in 2008, the same year it closed assembly plants in Ohio, Wisconsin and Georgia.

ACROSS THE NATION

Trump admin orders EPA contract freeze and media blackout

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Trump administration has instituted a media blackout at the Environmental Protection Agency and barred staff from awarding any new contracts or grants, part of a broader communications clampdown within the executive branch. The prohibitions came to light Tuesday as the agency moved to delay implementation of at least 30 environmental rules finalized in the closing months of President Barack Obama's term, a potential first step to seeking to kill the regulations. A summary of the actions posted in the Federal Register includes a long list of regulations that include up-

Asia

Vietnam War-era tear gas bombs found

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—A village in eastern Cambodia will have to be largely evacuated next month when two large bombs left over from the Vietnam War containing a powerful tear gas are excavated from the grounds of a Buddhist temple, demining experts said Tuesday.

Heng Ratana, director of the Cambodian Mine Action Center, said four bombs with CS gas were dropped in the village in Svay Rieng province by U.S. aircraft in February 1970, and two that didn't explode were buried by villagers. Similar bombs have been discovered else-

where in Cambodia.

Recently alerted by current residents, an expert from his agency found the two bombs, estimated to weigh about 250 kilograms (550 pounds) each, buried just meters (yards) away from a school. Heng Ratana said he has asked officials for a partial evacuation of monks, students and other villagers for up to a week while the bombs are disposed of early next month.

The United States secretly bombed eastern Cambodia beginning in 1969 to hinder its use as a sanctuary for communist Vietnamese forces attacking what was then U.S.-

backed South Vietnam.

U.S. forces, which openly intervened in 1970, dropped about 2.8 million tons of bombs on Cambodia until halting the bombing in 1973.

Most of the bombs were conventional explosives, but others contained chemical agents such as CS gas, which was sometimes used to try to flush guerrillas out of tunnels and caves where they hid. CS gas—actually a fine powder—is a common riot-control weapon, used as an alternative to conventional lethal force. It causes burning eyes, coughing, breathing difficulty, stinging skin, and vomiting.

Philippines apologizes to South Korea over Korean's killing

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine government apologized to South Korea on Tuesday for the reported killing of a South Korean man at the country's main police camp, a crime that has tainted law enforcers carrying out the president's controversial anti-drug crackdown.

President Rodrigo Duterte's spokesman, Ernesto Abella, offered the government's condolences to the widow of Jee Ickjoo and pledged to ensure that justice is served and not delayed.

"We apologize to the South Korean government and peo-

ple for this irreparable loss," Abella said at a news conference. "To the Korean people, please accept our sincerest and deepest regrets."

South Korean officials have expressed alarm over the killing of Jee, the latest in a growing number of Koreans who have been targeted by criminals and Muslim militants in the Philippines.

National police chief Ronald Dela Rosa has said policemen, including two who belonged to an anti-drug task force, kidnapped Jee and his Filipina house helper at his house in Angeles city north

of Manila using a fake arrest warrant with the intent of obtaining a ransom, but killed him the same day.

They then extracted a ransom payment from Jee's wife without telling her he was dead. The house helper was later freed, said Dela Rosa, who has also apologized for the involvement of his men in the crime.

Two police suspects are in custody and are among those charged with Jee's kidnapping and killing, officials said.

Dela Rosa has faced calls for his resignation but Duterte has continued to back him.

Briton fatally shot in Porsche in Thai resort town

BANGKOK (AP)—A 39-year-old British man was killed in his Porsche sedan in the Thai resort town of Pattaya on Tuesday by a gunman who pulled open the door and shot him at point-blank range, police said.

Police Col. Jirawut Tantassri identified the victim as Tony Kenway. He said Kenway lived in Thailand for seven years and worked in the computer field. Police have not identified the shooter or the motive in the killing.

Pattaya is a popular beachside resort town about two hours' drive from Bangkok

with a reputation as a sin city rife with corruption and prostitution. It attracts a significant number of Western residents, including organized crime figures from several nations.

Although police identified Kenway as British, his Facebook page says he is from Marbella, Spain.

Surveillance video copied by Thai media showed Kenway walking across the parking area of a sports club to his red Porsche Cayenne GTS as a person who had been standing nearby approaches from a different direction. Immediately after Kenway gets in and shuts

the door, the assailant pulls it back open and leans in, apparently shooting his victim in the head, though the action is not distinctly visible in the video. The gunman then runs to a road just outside the parking area where a motorcycle drives up and whisks him away.

The Bangkok Post newspaper reported that Kenway's Thai wife told police that her husband had set up a website design company and was involved in a business dispute, though she did not know if that was the motive for the killing.

Hopes fade for justice for dead, lost Sri Lankan journalists

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Hope is fading fast that Sri Lanka's government will take action against those responsible for the deaths and disappearances of dozens of journalists during and after the country's long civil war, activists and relatives said Tuesday.

President Maithripala Sirisena campaigned on a promise of ending a culture of impunity when he defeated former President Mahinda Rajapaksa in a January 2015 election.

During Rajapaksa's nine-year tenure, dozens of journalists were killed, abducted and tortured, or fled the country fearing for their lives. Scores more were killed or disappeared during the civil war that ended in 2009 with the defeat of Tamil Tiger rebels.

Two years into Sirisena's presidency, there is little sign that the suspects, mostly military soldiers, will be punished.

On Tuesday, dozens of journalists and activists gathered

in Colombo to commemorate the missing and write postcards to Sirisena demanding that he appoint a presidential commission to investigate the abductions.

The campaign was organized to mark what organizers call "Black January," a commemoration of the killings and abductions of journalists and the destruction of television studios that occurred in the month of January between 2005 and 2010.

World

'Eastern Mosul is fully liberated' from IS

MOSUL, Iraq (AP)—Iraq's prime minister on Tuesday declared eastern Mosul "fully liberated" from Islamic State group militants after a day of fierce fighting and more than three months after a massive U.S.-backed operation to retake the city began.

Iraqi forces drove Islamic State militants from one of their last bastions in the eastern half of the city, while aid groups expressed concern for the estimated 750,000 people still in the militant-held west.

In his weekly news conference on Tuesday, Haider al-Abadi hailed the "unmatched heroism of all security forces factions" and public support for the operation.

"Daesh has quickly collapsed and no one expected such collapse," al-Abadi said, using the Arabia acronym of IS. "The heroism of

our security forces was behind Daesh's defeat."

Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city and the IS's last urban stronghold in the country, fell into the hands of the extremists in the summer of 2014, when the group captured large swaths of northern and western Iraq.

Asked how long it will take to liberate the western side of the city, al-Abadi told The Associated Press: "I can't tell now, but we are capable of doing so and we will do so."

Hundreds of civilians fled from the northeastern Rashidiya neighborhood on foot as Iraqi helicopters circled overhead and fired on militants. At least two wounded Iraqi soldiers were brought back from the front lines after a suicide bombing.

A mortar attack in another neighborhood in eastern Mo-

sul killed an Iraqi army colonel on Sunday, according to Brig. Gen. Yahya Rasool, a military spokesman.

Meanwhile, Al-Abadi renewed his promise to investigate allegations of human rights violations by security forces in conflict areas and bring those responsible to trial. His comments came a day after ordering a probe into a video on social media purportedly showing government troops beating and killing at least three IS suspects in Mosul.

On Monday, a provincial investigative committee in western Anbar province concluded its probe into human rights violations in June near the town of Fallujah. It found that a member of a Shiite militia killed 17 civilians, Al-Abadi said. The militiaman, affiliated with the Badr group, is now in detention and awaiting trial, he said.

UNDER POPULIST LEADERS Watchdog group: Corruption worsens

BERLIN (AP)—People who turn to populist politicians promising to upset the status quo and end corruption may only be feeding the problem, an anti-corruption watchdog group warned Wednesday.

Transparency International said in its annual Corruption Perceptions Index for 2016 that in countries with populist or autocratic leaders, "instead of tackling crony capitalism, those leaders usually install even worse forms of corrupt systems."

The group's board chairman, Jose Ugaz, cited Hungary and Turkey as examples. Their scores have worsened in recent years un-

der leaders with authoritarian leanings, while Argentina, which ousted a populist government, has improved in the rankings, he said.

Based on expert opinions of public sector corruption, the annual report rated Denmark and New Zealand as the least-corrupt countries, followed by Finland, Sweden, Switzerland, and Norway. Somalia was ranked most corrupt, followed by South Sudan, North Korea, and Syria.

Rounding out the Top 10 least corrupt were Singapore, the Netherlands, Canada, and the tie-placing trio of Germany, Luxembourg and the United Kingdom in the No. 10 spot. The United States

placed 18th, down from 16th in 2015.

Transparency International research director Finn Heinrich told The Associated Press that the organization was taking a wait-and-see approach to Donald Trump's presidency, but that already it had "serious concerns."

"Donald Trump came on board as the people in Hungary and Turkey, on an anti-corruption ticket. He said, 'We're going to drain this swamp,'" Heinrich said. "But if you look at his action so far, there is nepotism.... The people in his Cabinet have many conflicts of interest. They are not people who stand for transparency."



HELICOPTER CRASH

Rescuers hug each other on the site where an helicopter crashed, in the Campo Felice ski area, central Italy, Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2017. A helicopter ferrying an injured skier off the slopes crashed Tuesday into a mountainside in central Italy, killing all six people aboard in the latest tragedy to hit a region slammed by recent earthquakes, heavy snowfall and an avalanche, officials said.

AP

Focus

Trump

dogged by insecurity

over popular vote, media coverage



President Donald Trump speaks during his meeting with automobile leaders in the Roosevelt Room of the White House in Washington, Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2017.
AP

WASHINGTON (AP)—Donald Trump holds the most powerful office in the world. But he's dogged by insecurity over his loss of the popular vote in the election and a persistent frustration that the legitimacy of his presidency is being challenged by Democrats and the media, aides and associates say.

Trump's fixation has been a drag on the momentum of his opening days in office, with his exaggerations about inauguration crowds and false assertions about illegal balloting intruding on advisers' plans to launch his presidency with a flurry of actions on the economy. His spokesman Sean Spicer has twice stepped into the fray himself, including on Tuesday, when he doubled down on Trump's false claim that he lost the popular vote because 3 million to 5 million people living in the U.S. illegally cast ballots.

"He believes what he believes based on the information he was provided," said Spicer, who provided no evidence to back up the president's statements. All 50 states and the District of Columbia have finalized their election results with no reports of the

kind of widespread fraud that Trump is alleging.

If the president's claim were true it would mark the most significant election fraud in U.S. history—and ironically, would raise the same questions about Trump's legitimacy that he's trying to avoid. Yet Spicer repeatedly sidestepped questions about whether the Trump administration would investigate the allegations pushed by the president.

"Anything is possible," he said.

Some Trump allies say Trump is justified in using his platform to defend his standing. They point to Georgia Democratic Rep. John Lewis' pre-inauguration statement that he did not see Trump as a legitimate president, as well as U.S. intelligence agencies' assessment that Russia meddled in the election in order to help Trump win.

"Segments of his own government keep driving this narrative," said Roger Stone, a longtime confidant. "I don't think it hurts to point it out."

Key advisers in Trump's circle concede the focus on crowd claims and alleged voter fraud have been a distraction. But who's going to stop him from airing his complaints?

After relishing in Friday's inaugural festivities, the new president

grew increasingly upset the next day by what he felt was "biased" media coverage of women's marches across the globe protesting his election, according to a person familiar with his thinking. Trump was particularly enraged with CNN, which he thought was "gloating" by continually running photos of the women's march alongside the smaller crowds that attended his inauguration the day before, according to this person, one of several White House aides and associates who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about private conversations.

Tuesday night on Twitter, Trump slammed CNN again, referring to the network as "FAKE NEWS @CNN" while praising rival Fox News Channel.

Trump has had a tumultuous relationship with the press, frequently calling the media dishonest and insulting individual reporters by name at his rallies and on Twitter. Still, two people close to Trump said he expected his coverage to turn more favorable once he took office. Instead, he's told people he believes it's gotten worse.

The bad press over the weekend has not allowed Trump to "enjoy" the

White House as he feels he deserves, according to one person who has spoken with him.

The result has been a full display of Trump's propensity for exaggeration and more. During an appearance at the CIA Saturday, he wrongly said the inaugural crowds gathered on the National Mall stretched to the Washington Monument, despite clear photo evidence to the contrary. And during a reception with lawmakers from both parties Monday night, he repeated his false assertion that millions of illegal immigrants provided Hillary Clinton's margin in the popular vote.

It's not the first time that Trump, who is known to be both thin-skinned and dedicated to polishing his public image, has become fixated on details that challenge his success. When journalist Timothy O'Brien wrote in a 2005 book that Trump was a multimillionaire, not a billionaire, the real estate mogul sued him for \$5 billion. The case was dismissed. Trump appealed, accusing the journalist of libel. He lost that, too.

Spicer hinted at Trump's feelings during his maiden press briefing on Monday.

"There is this constant theme to undercut the enormous support that

he has," Spicer said. "And I think that it's just unbelievably frustrating when you're continually told it's not big enough, it's not good enough, you can't win."

Less than one week into the administration, Spicer has twice been sent to the White House briefing room to reiterate his boss' message. Trump is said to have approved of Spicer's angry tirade against the media on Saturday, which included false statements about the inaugural crowds. But the president, who is intensely focused on optics, was said to be critical of Spicer's on-camera image.

By Monday, Spicer was donning a darker suit and his lectern in the briefing room had been lowered somewhat.

Underscoring Trump's habit of stoking rivalries among his staff, he has told people he wants his counselor Kellyanne Conway to be on television more. He cheered her use of the phrase "alternative facts" in a recent interview as a way to counteract what he believes is the media's inherent bias.

Those around Trump are trying to get the cable news consumer-in-chief to be near a television less often, according to one person who has spoken with him.

Environment

Trump sends unmistakable signal on pipelines: Big oil is back

Olivia One Feather of the Standing Rock Sioux tribe speaks to the crowd during a NoDAPL rally at Westlake Park, Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2017, in Seattle. On Tuesday, President Donald Trump signed executive actions to move forward with the Dakota Access and Keystone XL Pipelines.

AP

By **EVAN HALPER** and
WILLIAM YARDLEY

TRIBUNE WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON—The hotly contested Keystone XL and Dakota Access pipeline projects that President Donald Trump brought back to life with the stroke of a pen Tuesday may still never get built—but for Trump, that isn't necessarily the point.

The projects have become among the country's most potent symbols of the clash between an oil and gas industry seeking to maintain the old order of energy production and the climate change movement pushing for a different direction.

Trump used the two proposed pipelines to send an unmistakable message during his first week in office: Energy firms and their projects are back in favor.

When the Obama administration rejected Keystone in 2015 after years of protests and tens of millions of dollars spent by all sides, green-energy champions celebrated a seminal victory. The decision against the project came right before Obama signed a landmark global warming accord with dozens of other heads of state at a summit in Paris.

The Dakota Access project

more recently became a national rallying point not only for environmental groups but for Native American tribes who said it threatened grounds they hold sacred. The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe has set up a camp to protest the pipeline, and the battle over it has become violent at times, with protesters clashing with police.

As the fight drew increasing national attention last year, the Obama administration dealt the project a potentially devastating blow that once again sent a strong message of opposition to fossil fuel projects. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers denied the pipeline a crucial easement and announced it would look for alternatives to its planned route under a dammed section of the Missouri River called Lake Oahe.

Days before Obama's term ended, the Corps of Engineers announced it would start an extensive environmental review that could add months—potentially years—to the permitting process and open the project to more public comment, creating new opportunities for opponents to block it.

Trump's decision to revive the prospects for both projects comes as his administration jettisons much of Obama's climate policy—including U.S. participation in the Paris accord—and promises to work aggressively to

curb regulations that inhibit drilling and mining.

As the Trump administration moves swiftly to change direction, it also issued a gag order to the staff at the Environmental Protection Agency, which took a lead in Obama's climate fight. Officials at the agency have been instructed not to interact at all with the news media and to freeze all contracts and grants.

Trump's directives on the pipelines may pay political dividends. The angry opposition to the announcements comes mostly from places and groups that have never supported Trump. By contrast,

the moves are likely to be well received by workers in Rust Belt communities who backed Trump in the election and now see him delivering on his promise to work for more jobs in Middle America.

The decision on the Dakota Access pipeline instructed the Corps of Engineers to "consider" whether it can grant final approval for the project. It does not immediately clear the way for construction to resume, but strongly tilts in that direction, telling the Corps to consider skipping any additional environmental review.

Jan Hasselman, a lawyer for the advocacy group

Earthjustice, called that directive illegal, saying it was "an insult to Standing Rock, and it continues a historic pattern of trampling on the rights of native people."

Environmental groups call the \$3.8 billion, 1,170-mile project—nearly all of which has already been built—a threat to clean air and water, as well as to farming communities.

On Keystone, the president emphasized the jobs aspect of the project by insisting that the pipeline be built exclusively with U.S. steel, which he said would generate still more jobs.

That demand may or may not be feasible. If it raises the pipeline's cost, it could prove the death knell for a project that may no longer pencil out financially. The price of oil has plunged over the last couple of years to levels far below what Keystone's designers had envisioned.

The order Trump signed Tuesday invited TransCanada, the firm that developed Keystone, to submit a new application for a permit for the pipeline. It directed administration agencies to swiftly review that application and issue a new decision within 60 days. That would be in sharp contrast with the nearly eight years during which the project languished before Obama finally rejected it.

During the long delay, fighting Keystone became a

rallying point for the environmental movement. While studies showed the effects of the single pipeline on the climate would be negligible—as would be its impact on boosting global oil production—resistance focused on the environmental movement drawing a line in the sand, demanding that public officials stop backing big, invasive infrastructure projects that feed the world's oil habit and undermine the push for more green energy.

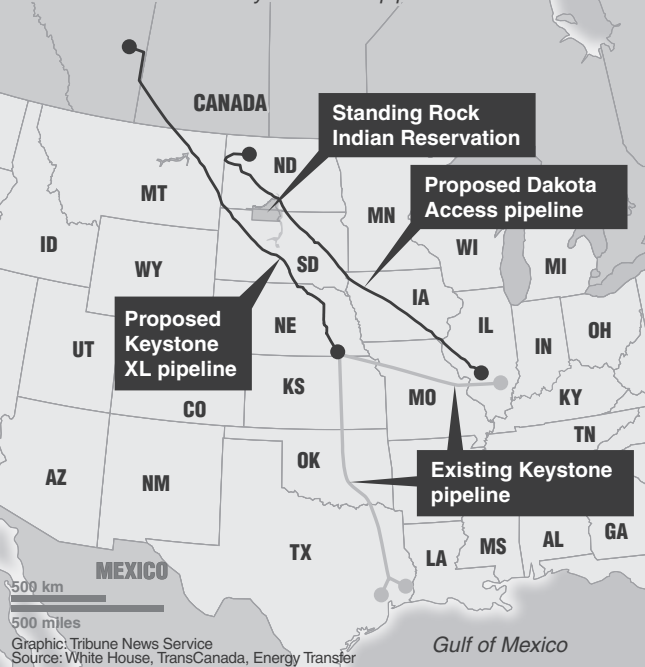
TransCanada immediately declared it would seize the new opening for its project, which is designed to ship 800,000 barrels of oil a day from the Canadian tar sands to refineries along the U.S. Gulf Coast.

In a statement, TransCanada vowed the pipeline would create thousands of jobs and boost the American economy, saying it "represents the safest, most environmentally sound way to connect the American economy to an abundant energy resource."

Trump echoed the project's supporters, saying the pipeline could generate 28,000 construction jobs. Opponents dispute that number, saying the new jobs would be less abundant than Trump claims and noting that in any case they would be temporary. They also say the project would undermine the potential creation of many more jobs in solar, wind and geothermal energy.

Trump moves forward on pipelines

President Donald Trump signed orders regarding the Dakota Access and Keystone XL oil pipelines.

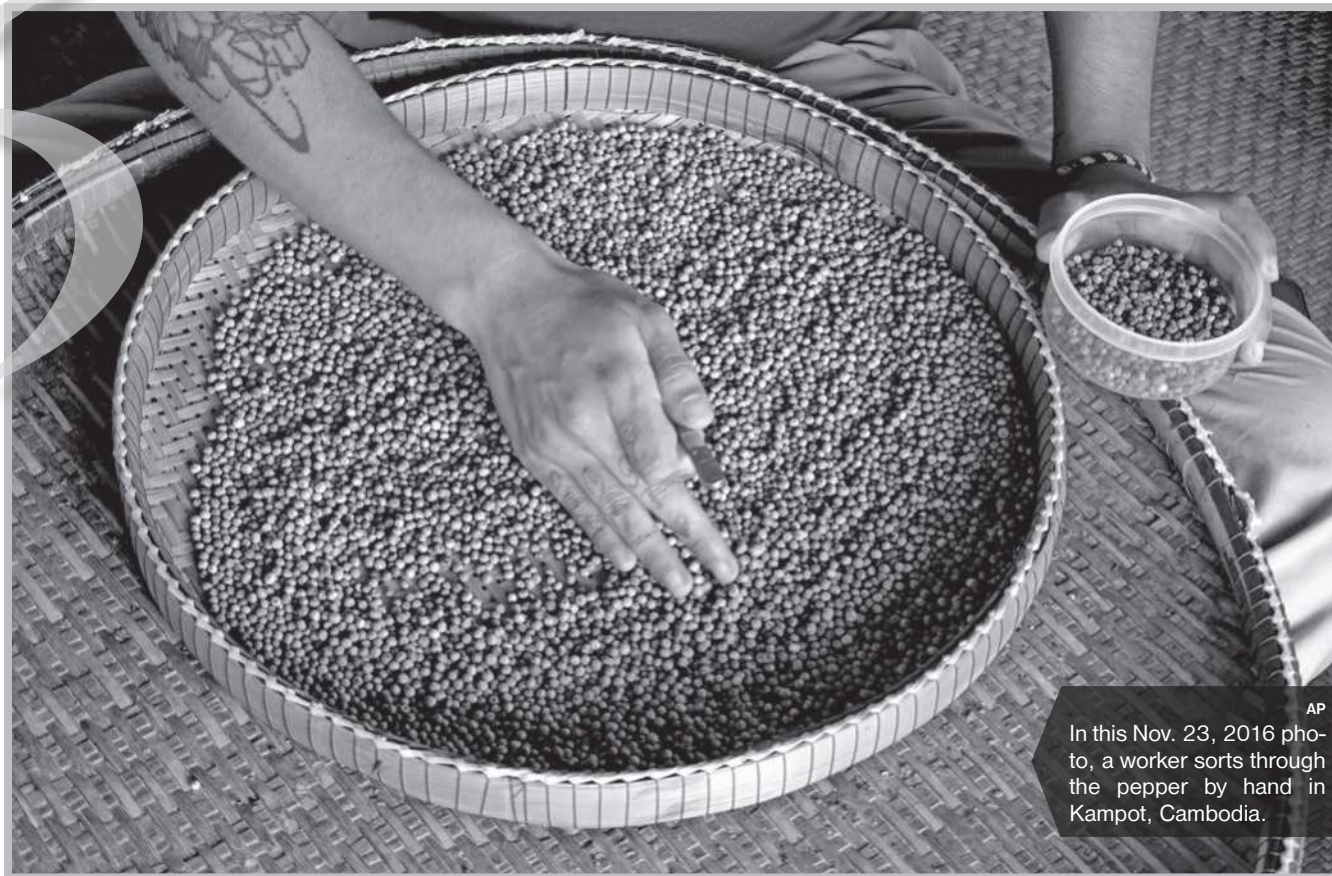


Life & Style

KAMPOT, Cambodia (AP)—A nearby sea, flanking mountains, a quartz-rich soil: It's the perfect spot on earth, devotees say, to yield a product they describe in that rapturous vocabulary usually reserved for fine wines: "aristocratic, virile, almost aphrodisiacal," with subtle notes of caramel, gingerbread and mild tobacco.

Celebrity chefs from Paris to Los Angeles swear by Kampot pepper, a southwestern Cambodian spice with a tragic past that is now reclaiming its global pre-eminence. It is also proving to be "black gold" for some of its once-impooverished farmers, thanks in part to Kampot pepper last year being awarded a Protected Geographical Indication by the European Union. This identifies unique products—like Stilton cheese, Champagne or Darjeeling tea—as originating in a very specific region.

So far Kampot pepper production is a mere dusting—just 70 tons last year. Vietnam, the world's top pepper producer, churned out some 145,000 tons of the spice. But more plantations are springing up while Kampot quality is rated as high as ever and hitherto slack markets, like the United States, are getting hooked on the spice. A New York chef has even concocted a Kampot pepper ice cream while Mi-



AP
In this Nov. 23, 2016 photo, a worker sorts through the pepper by hand in Kampot, Cambodia.

Cambodia's "perfect pepper" conquering world's taste buds

chelin three-starred French chef Olivier Roellinger rhapsodizes about its "olfactory richness" and broad spectrum of flavors.

The spice's EU designation "has permitted a renaissance of pepper in Kampot. ... This not only recognizes the singularity of this pepper but

helps protect it from imitations," says Nathalie Chaboche, a Frenchwoman who with her Belgian husband, Guy Porre, owns La Planta-

tion, where pepper plants entwined 20,000 posts on a rolling green landscape fronted by the Gulf of Thailand.

The couple, who started the enterprise four years ago after lucrative careers in the computer industry, aim to boost production from 6 tons last

year to 50 tons in 2018. They intend to grow without weakening quality control or endangering Kampot's status as a "premier cru," a French term for wine and other produce signifying impeccable quality—and hefty price.

Kampot red pepper was

recently selling in Germany for as much as 378 euro per kilogram (\$185 per pound), compared to an average import price of about \$8 for one kilo in Europe for Vietnamese pepper. The farm-gate price for the three pepper varieties—red, white and black—averages around \$10 per pound.

Believed to have originated in southern India, pepper became a widely traded item across Asia and Europe. Pepper farming in Cambodia was first recorded by a Chinese traveler in the 13th century, and energized centuries later by French colonialists. By the early 1900s, annual production peaked at 8,000 tons.

War disrupted the industry and after their 1975 victory, the murderous Khmer Rouge turned farmers into slave laborers. Deeming the "king of spice" too decadent for their ultra-revolution, the regime left plantations to decay.

A Japanese aid worker, Hironobu Kurata, pioneered a revival in the mid-1990s, but the scars of the Khmer Rouge era took long to heal. As late as 2000, only 2 tons were grown annually, but now about 450 farms produce Kampot pepper. Most belong to the Kampot Pepper Promotion Association, which assists in price-setting and marketing while policing strict standards, including adherence to organic practices.

Cultivators use methods tested over 700 years, with some injecting new techniques.

'Tanna' director recounts path from tiny island to Oscar nod

By KRISTEN GELINEAU
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SYDNEY (AP)—The premiere of "Tanna," Australia's first-ever Oscar nominee for a foreign language film, was as far from Hollywood glamor as one can get. The guests gathered not in an opulent theatre, but in a cyclone-flattened village on a remote island. There were no glittering gowns, but plenty of grass skirts. And the film's stars were hardly A-list actors; they had, in fact, never even acted before—or seen a movie.

For Australian directors Bentley Dean and Martin Butler, their film's evolution from a tiny production in the South Pacific to an Oscar contender for best foreign film is as thrilling as it is inconceivable. The tale of tribal love was shot on the island of Tanna in Vanuatu, in the indigenous Nauvhal language, with an amateur cast of villagers.

"It was just fabulous news and a little bit hard to believe," Dean said in an interview on Wednesday, shortly after receiving word of the film's Oscar nod. "Given how it all started, I think it makes it a bit

more improbable."

The film's roots began 10 years ago, when Butler sent Dean to Tanna to work on a documentary. Dean fell in love with Tanna's lush landscape and rich culture and vowed to find a way to return.

A few years ago, he and Butler decided to approach the people living in the tiny village of Yakel to see if they would be interested in collaborating on a feature film. The idea was certainly novel to the tribe, who had never even seen a film. Though aware of the outside world, the community chooses to live like their ancestors, hunting with bows and arrows and eschewing modern conveniences like electricity.

The directors showed the villagers a couple of movies on a laptop to give them an idea of what they wanted to create. The tribe loved the idea and quickly agreed to the project.

Dean wanted the film to be a collaborative effort in which the Yakel people could tell their own story. And so in 2014, he moved to the com-

munity with his wife and two young children and lived there for seven months, absorbing everything he could about their history and culture. The experience was particularly exciting for his kids, who learned to hunt with bows and arrows and got to run around the surrounding mountain valleys with the village children.

"They loved it," Dean said. "Our 2-year-old was given a machete on arrival."

The villagers told Dean the true story of two lovers who, years before, found themselves caught in a tribal war over a traditional arranged marriage that threatened to split them apart. That story became the plot for "Tanna."

The tribe speaks Nauvhal—a language spoken by only a few thousand people worldwide. Luckily, a man from a neighboring village who had learned English while attending school on another island agreed to serve as a translator.

Though none of the villagers had ever acted before, they managed to turn out performances so genuine they stunned the filmmakers.

Oscars change their tune with 'La La Land,' diverse nominees

By JAKE COYLE
AP FILM WRITER

History was made across Tuesday's 89th annual Academy Awards nominations, where the retro musical "La La Land" reaped a record-tying 14 nominations and a wave of African-American films, led by the luminous coming-of-age portrait "Moonlight," resoundingly toppled two straight years of "so white" Oscars.

The twin forces—Damien Chazelle's candy-colored love letter to musicals and a broad group of diverse films that also included Denzel Washington's fiery August Wilson adaptation "Fences" and the uplifting African-American mathematician tale "Hidden Figures"—dominated the nominations.

The 14 nods for "La La Land," including best picture, best actress for Emma Stone, best actor for Ryan Gosling

and best director for Chazelle, matched the record hauls of 1997's "Titanic" and 1950's "All About Eve." A disoriented Chazelle, speaking by phone from Beijing, said, "All that I have in my head is 'thank you' a million times over."

Also a record: the six black actors nominated, including "Fences" stars Washington and Viola Davis, Mahershala Ali and Naomie Harris of "Moonlight," Ruth Negga of "Loving" and Octavia Spencer of "Hidden Figures." Dev Patel, the British-Indian star of "Lion," was also nominated, making it seven actors of color nominated out of 20.

It made for a stark contrast to the last two years of all-white acting nominees, a disparity that prompted widespread outrage throughout the film industry and led academy president Cheryl Boone Isaacs to revamp the academy's membership.

Jenkins, who was nominated for directing and adapted

screenplay, said the eight nominations for "Moonlight" and those for other films showed that people were eager to put themselves in the shoes of others. "Moonlight," "Fences" and "Hidden Figures" were each nominated for best picture.

"I love the American film industry and to see it this year, I feel, really reflect the world that we all live and work in, it gives me hope," Jenkins said by phone from Amsterdam. "It heartens me. There's a lot of work being done to make this year not be an anomaly."

Nine films out of a possible ten were nominated for best picture. The others were: Denis Villeneuve's cerebral alien thriller "Arrival," Kenneth Lonergan's New England family drama "Manchester by the Sea," the West Texas heist thriller "Hell or High Water," the "Lion," and Mel Gibson's World War II drama "Hacksaw Ridge."

Comeback complete? Mel Gibson gets an Oscar nod

This Oct. 26, 2016 file photo shows director Mel Gibson posing to promote his film, "Hacksaw Ridge," at the Ritz Carlton in New Orleans. AP



NEW YORK (AP)—Mel Gibson is having quite a week: On Friday, he became a father for the ninth time and on Tuesday he earned an unexpected Oscar nomination, capping what appears to be a remarkable comeback from Hollywood's version of Siberia.

"What could be more exciting than listening to the nominations being announced while holding my newborn son!" Gibson said in a statement after his "Hacksaw Ridge" earned six nominations Tuesday, including one for him as best director.

Gibson as little as five years ago was a pariah and fodder for late-night comedians after a series of rants and scandals

prompted some of the industry's top players to say they won't work with him.

Gibson was one of the world's biggest box office draws following roles in the "Mad Max" and "Lethal Weapon" popcorn franchises, as well as more serious fare such as "Ransom," "The Patriot" and "Braveheart," which earned him Oscars for best picture and best director.

But his profile nosedived in 2006 after he went into an anti-Semitic tirade as he was being arrested on the Pacific Coast Highway in Malibu, California, on suspicion of driving while drunk. Gibson later apologized and was sentenced to probation

and alcohol treatment. He was listed the third-worst celebrity in 2006 in an AP-AOL News poll, behind only Britney Spears and Paris Hilton.

Gibson then pleaded no contest in 2011 to one count of misdemeanor spousal battery of his former girlfriend Oksana Grigorieva. He was sentenced to three years of probation, domestic violence counseling and two days of community service. Audio recordings surfaced of disturbing arguments between the two.

"Hacksaw Ridge," the story of a pacifist army medic in World War II, is Gibson's first film he's directed since 2006's "Apocalypto." He

also directed the controversial 2004 box-office hit "The Passion of the Christ."

Gibson, whose girlfriend is the writer Rosalind Ross, has said he's been sober for many years. Andrew Garfield, who earned an Oscar nomination in "Hacksaw Ridge," said Gibson has changed, calling it "a new dawn."

"I'm just really glad that his work has been recognized in this way and that his talents are being recognized," said Garfield. "And also what's being recognized, I feel, is that he's done a lot of healing and a lot of work within himself and that whatever happened 10 years ago happened 10 years ago."

Pro-Trump site gets 1st question at White House briefing

NEW YORK (AP)—White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer took the first question at his briefing Tuesday from a reporter who works for LifeZette, a website founded by Donald Trump supporter Laura Ingraham that published some untrue stories during the 2016 presidential campaign.

Last year, LifeZette released a video, "Clinton Body Count," that promoted a conspiracy theory that Hillary and Bill Clinton had ties to the

deaths of several colleagues and Democrats. Another video posted two weeks before the election promoted false claims that voting machines in 16 states could be compromised because they were linked to a company tied to liberal activist George Soros.

LifeZette features a mix of conservative politics, lifestyle and consumer articles and videos. Its home page Tuesday featured a story about New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady calling Trump to

congratulate him on becoming president; one that questioned the purpose of last weekend's women's march; and another in which Fox News' Sean Hannity condemned Trump officials who had leaked information to the press.

Tuesday's briefing was another indication of how press relations have changed with the onset of a new administration in Washington.

The reporter, Jim Stinson, asked Spicer when President Trump would follow through

on campaign promises about immigration.

Ingraham, a conservative radio host, was among those the new president considered to serve as his press secretary. She was given a prominent speaking role at the Republican convention last summer.

Spicer taking the first question from Stinson attracted notice because, before Trump, major news outlets were traditionally called upon to open White House press conferences and briefings.

Downtown LA's brilliant, Anthony Quinn mural gets a makeover

LOS ANGELES (AP)—He was a good-natured Greek, an angry Bedouin and numerous other unforgettable characters in a legendary film career, and now Anthony Quinn is once again the splendid "Pope of Broadway," his colorful image welcoming visitors to downtown Los Angeles.

Eloy Torrez's brilliant,

70-foot-tall acrylic mural, showing the actor sharply dressed and with arms outstretched in a welcoming gesture, was rededicated Tuesday, after the artist spent much of last fall restoring it to its former glory.

"It was a fun adventure to relive it, it was kind of like time-traveling," he said of spending countless hours

perched on a window-washing platform high above a downtown parking lot as he repaired the work he'd created in 1985 when he was just 30.

"I'm not quite 30 anymore," the modest, soft-spoken Torrez said with a smile as he stood under the huge mural Tuesday. "But it did take me back to specific moments when I first did it."

The painting of Quinn standing on a colorful tile walkway in front of a building resembling a church has greeted passers-by crossing Broadway and entering the city's Third Street tunnel through Bunker Hill for decades. But over the years it had begun to crumble, falling victim to the elements and graffiti vandals.

Car of man's dreams doesn't pass muster with his wife

DEAR ABBY: I am a successful business professional in my mid-50s. I have put my children through college, and they have no student loans. (My wife did not help with any of the college expenses. It was all on me.)

I am finally at a point in my life that I can pursue my passion of buying a sports car. I have always been a car guy, and my wife knows it. When I bring up the subject of purchasing the car of my dreams, which is not very expensive, she tells me I will look like an idiot. In her next breath she says it's OK if I buy a sports car if it is the one she wants, and of course, the one she wants is very expensive.

No matter how I broach the subject, she does not "get" that it is not about her but about my passion as a car guy. How do I get her to see my side?

REVVING UP IN NEW YORK

DEAR REVVING UP: If it's your money paying for the car, you don't have to get her to see your side. It will be yours—not hers—and you should buy the one that gives you pleasure and drive it to your heart's content.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I have been with "Roger" for 28 years. He is basically a good, honest man, but he thinks only of himself. When I had heart surgery, he left me alone at the hospital that

night, not knowing if I would live or die. (Nothing would have kept me from HIS bedside!) I'll be having knee surgery soon, and he won't take the day off or a sick day to take me. He wants a friend of ours to do it.

These are just two samples of his lack of support for me. I guess there is no way to make someone care enough about you to put their conveniences aside. When we moved out of state, he said if he didn't find a job, he was going back home. Well, where would that have left me?

Roger wouldn't have anything at all if it weren't for me. I know I should dump him, but after 28 years, I can't pull the rug out from under him. He cops an attitude and makes me feel bad if I press the subject. I only wish he would do something for me from his heart, but I guess it isn't there. Any advice, Abby?

HIS LAST PRIORITY IN FLORIDA

DEAR LAST PRIORITY: Yes, because you can't bring yourself to pull the rug out from under Roger, it might help you to memorize the Serenity Prayer when he disappoints you in the future. It goes like this: "Lord, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference."

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My mother was a stickler when it came to table manners. She had a little 1-inch-long ceramic pink pig that

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



she placed in front of me every time I did something Emily Post would frown on. I HATED that little pig.

RALPH IN ARROYO GRANDE, CALIF.

DEAR RALPH: Now, now. You should have been grateful to that little pig, because it kept you from becoming a BIG one.

■■■

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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Pastimes

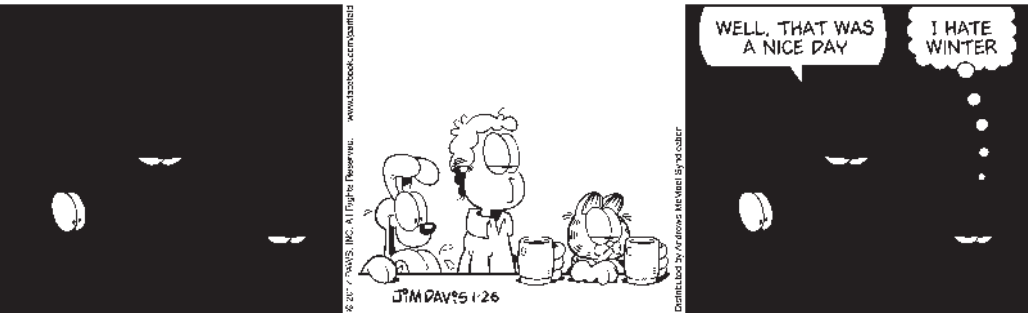
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



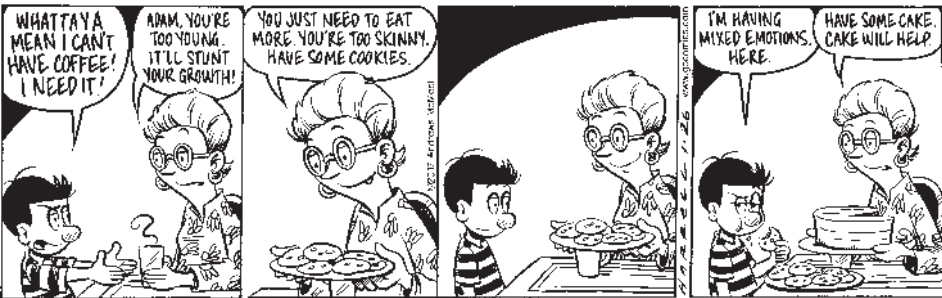
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 36 Exist 2 PC 24 "Bow-wow!" 1 Actor 37 Hay unit 3 Too 25 Main-lander's memento 5 Rear part 40 Yours truly 4 Bounty uprising 26 Emerald City setting 9 Low isle 41 Reaction to a pun 6 Lyricist Gershwin 13 New York canal 43 Written in verse 7 Zero 27 Drescher or 14 Ms. 47 Klutz 8 Perry's assistant 29 Right angle 15 Maximally adulthood 51 Egg (Pref.) 30 Misery 17 Zing 53 Atop 11 Shriek lobby org. 37 Add muscle 21 "Forget it!" 55 Horn sound 20 Conditions 39 Intact 22 Hearty drink 56 Saucy 22 Idiosyncrasy 41 Blunder 24 Friend DOWN 1 Dalai — 23 Incite 42 5-star review 28 One-dish meal Solution time: 26 mins. 31 Stephen of "Still Crazy" 32 18-wheeler 33 "Xanadu" band, for short 34 Twain hero

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CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Sara Rue, 38; Ellen DeGeneres, 59; Eddie Van Halen, 62; Lucinda Williams, 64.

Happy Birthday: Channel your energy into the pursuits and causes that bring you joy and satisfaction. Take on challenges and face opposition with an open mind and a willingness to work with others in order to bring about positive changes. Look for new and innovative ways to improve your life. Take stock of what isn't working for you and make the necessary adjustments. Your numbers are 4, 13, 20, 28, 31, 45, 49.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Work through any discrepancies you face with thought and consideration. Ask pointed questions and reflect on past experiences to help guide you in a direction that will encourage gains instead of losses. Stay focused and practice moderation. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't be driven to make an impulsive decision. Rely on your own experience and practicality to choose the time to make your next move. You will learn from the mistakes others make. Sit back and observe. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Observation coupled with subtle changes will be self-serving. A calculated approach to helping others will ensure that you receive something in return. Set reasonable expectations and don't back down. Don't let a personal matter lead to a dispute. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Relationships should be your priority. Whether dealing with a personal or business ven-

ture, be sure to strive for equality. An open conversation will help you avoid discord. Share your ideas and listen to suggestions, and perfection will be achieved. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Getting along with your peers will help you avoid controversy. It's important to hang back and observe for the time being. As long as you take care of your responsibilities, you will be able to avoid being taken advantage of. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Keep life simple and affordable. Making an impulsive purchase, lending or borrowing is not advised. Stay put and make do with what you have. Someone special will be happy to relax and enjoy a quiet day of togetherness. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Emotional situations will spin out of control if you aren't mindful. Changes at home may come as a surprise if you haven't been paying attention to how those around you are responding to what you do and say. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A short jaunt will lead to an experience you won't want to miss. The people you encounter and the things you learn will be instrumental in the choices you make moving forward. Self-improvement will lead to greater awareness. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Take better care of your health and the ones you love. Problems at home will mount if you are pushy or demanding. Offer incentives if you want help from someone. Reconnect with people from your past. ★★★

EUGENIA LAST THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take action. Rely on your gut feelings and desires to push you in the right direction. Don't worry about what others do or say. Stay focused on the results you want to achieve. A childhood memory will inspire a workable solution. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You can bring about positive change by combining the old with the new. Using one of your skills to rework a situation that needs adjusting will be valuable. Follow your heart and achieve your goals without hesitation. ★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Make changes because you want to, not because you are emotionally caught up in a moment that leads to an impulsive decision. Having confidence, trust and faith in what you are capable of doing will ensure your success. ★★★★★ Birthday Baby: You are energetic, proud and adaptable. You are receptive and conscientious.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ http://bit.ly/exhoro and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

		1			9				5	
5										6
					3	1	5			
		3	5		7	8				
1		5				7				2
		8	2		1	6				
			7	2	4					
9										1
	6				8				2	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/26

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	4	6	7	1	9	5	2	3
1	3	2	8	5	4	9	6	7
7	9	5	2	3	6	4	8	1
2	6	8	3	9	7	1	5	4
9	1	4	6	8	5	7	3	2
3	5	7	1	4	2	8	9	6
6	7	1	9	2	8	3	4	5
5	8	3	4	6	1	2	7	9
4	2	9	5	7	3	6	1	8

Difficulty Level: ★★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

EYEGLASS PRESCRIPTIONS

Solution: 14 letters

N V L A C I T R E V F L E F T
R A E V A L U A T I O N L S C
A L I S U N I M D P A R I O
E U S D R E W O P I L G N N M
N E A I I S T I D D O U E I P
O S G A G R S A E L F P S S U
I H L M G H E X O N R H T T
T N A E T R T M O C A S L E E
A A C T E E L I I D M E L R R
T I I E R A T N A M E Y I A O
N C R R H I I L N E T E E T
E I E T S L N S E S I X A W C
I T H O C S T R E N G T H E O
R P P S E L E C T E S A B Y D
O O S S E R D D A N G L E E S

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Address, Adult, Angle, Axis, Base, Clinic, Computer, Dexter, Diameter, Dipter, Doctor, Evaluation, Eyes, Eyewear, Fill, Frame, Left, Lens, Lines, Meridian, Minus, Name, Near, Ophthalmologist, Optician, Orientation, Plus, Position, Power, Read, Right, Select, Sight, Sinister, Spherical, Strength, Style, Test, Tinted, Values, Vertical

Yesterday's Answer: Death Star To purchase the WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1 or #2, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99c per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

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1-Violin Instructor. 3 years experience. Myong Run Corp. dba Doremi Music School. Tel. 233-7777.

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Looking to buy or long term lease house/apartment. Will pay lump-sum. Look for Zheng at 287-7676.

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BL MACHINE SHOP
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(3) **Machinist**
▪ Knowledgeable in Fabrication and Modifying Parts
▪ At Least 3 years of experience in machining job.
Contact Person: Liberty Sayson
Contact Number : 235-2567

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Saipan Tribune

GIG PARTNER’S, INC.
Is in need of the following:
(2)Marketing Specialist
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(7) Bartender
(10) Wait Staff
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disco dance
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Night Club Security Guard
and/ Doorman
Send your request and resume through email: gcing@gmail.com, or submit your documents at our agent’s office at Chalan Lau Lau c/o MGA Business beside Paradise Island.

Job Vacancy Announcement
(1) **Building Maintenance Repairer**
8 years minimum work experience required in building maintenance including finishing carpentry, masonry, plumbing installation, tile laying, wood staining and varnishing, plastering, and other maintenance duties as assigned. Knowledgeable in basic building design, construction, and repair. Must have valid CNMI driver’s license and transportation. Pay is minimum wage.

Interested applicants may contact **287-9170 or send resume, police clearance, and references to RJR Co. at rjrco@yahoo.com**

AMCA TRADING BUSINESS, INC.
Is Looking for Insurance Sales Agent
-2 or more years of experience, college graduate. Knowledge in Excel, Peach Tree and other accounting services. Send your resume to; mgabzcenter@yahoo.com or call 234-6278.

CURRY ENTERPRISES, LLC DBA WILD BILLS
Is Looking for Kitchen Helper
At least High School Graduate or equivalent. Assist cooks and kitchen staff with various task as needed, washing dishes, equipment, utensils. Clean working area.
Send your resume to: mgabzcenter@yahoo.com or call 234-6278.

WHATZIT Solution: Lie through your teeth

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune’s Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as \$30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$30
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?TM

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

**MOLAR
INCISOR
CANINE**

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Kanoa Resort
Saipan

(1) **A/C REFRIGERATION MECHANIC / TECHNICIAN**

Qualifications: Require post-secondary instruction from technical and trade schools or community colleges that offer programs in air-conditioning and refrigeration and/or associate's degree. Completion of an apprenticeship program or three (3) years of experience. Able to install and repair industrial and commercial refrigeration systems. Perform a wide array of duties, inspect, maintain and troubleshoot centralized A/C cooling tower. Must be able to work a flexible schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr@kanoaresort.com. Application forms may be obtained at our Security Office located at the back wing of our resort. To be considered, applicants must be submitted not later than January 30, 2017. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Kanoa Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Position: Scuba Diving Instructor (Self-Enrichment Educational Teachers) x1
Work Location: Garapan, Saipan & other diving sites in the CNMI.
Working Hours: Full-time (8hrs/day, 40hrs/week; Flex Time)
Wage: \$18.37/hr.; frequency= monthly; O.T.= X 1.5
Job Duties: Teach, instruct, and guide scuba diving activities to individuals or groups at public or private facilities. Explains & demonstrates the basic of scuba diving & teaches the proper use of diving equipments. Conduct certification classes to achieve proficiency in diving. May assist customers at Employer's outdoor sports retail shop, and do other related duties as assigned.
Requirements: Minimum 5 years of work experience as scuba diving instructor. Must be a PADI or NAUI certified, licensed Scuba Diving Instructor. Must be able to speak, read and write Japanese language enough to teach and instruct scuba diving to tourists and regulars from Japan, that dominate the nationality of the Company's customers.
Compensations: Workers' Compensation provided. Other compensations negotiable.

Please send your resume with a copy of your diving instructor license or your inquiry by email or e-mail to:
AQUA CONNECTIONS, INC.
E-mail aqua@pticom.com
Fax: (670) 233-3304

Legislative Bureau
NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
P.O. BOX 500586, SAIPAN, MP 96950

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Examination Announcement No.: LB-JVA-17-004
Opening Date: January 26, 2017
Closing Date: February 09, 2017

This examination is for the purpose of developing an Open Competitive and Promotional Eligible list. It is the policy of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands that the personnel system shall be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

POSITION AND SALARY:
Information Technology Manager (1 Position) **PL-UNGRADED \$40,000 to \$50,000 P/A**

The salary will be determined by the qualifications of the applicant and limited to the amount currently appropriated for the position.

LOCATION:
Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building (CNMI Legislature), Capitol Hill, Saipan

JOB DESCRIPTIONS:
This position reports to the Legislative Bureau Director.

Manage and maintain Legislature's computer network and systems. Ensure the security of all technological networks and systems. Ensure networks and systems are accessible and equipped with current hardware and software. Advise management on matters pertaining to information technology management, upgrades, technological issues, technological policies and procedures. Assist all members of the legislature including their staff, Legislative Bureau and CNMI Youth Congress staff with technological issues as they arise. Provide hardware and software training and support as needed.

Performs other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:
Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's Degree. Copy of degree/official transcript and police clearance must be attached to the application. A complete resume attached to the application is also preferred.

An employee in this class should (1) have a strong technical background; (2) have 10 years' experience managing an information technology operations; (3) have experience in providing hands-on technical support and training; (4) have good oral and written communication skills; (5) have the ability to use standards business software programs to prepare reports, memos, summaries, and analyses; (6) have an understanding of government operations; (7) be a team player and self-motivated; and (8) be detailed orientated, organized, and security conscious.

Employment application may be accessed at www.cnmileg.gov.mp or may be picked up at the Office of the Director of the Legislative Bureau located at the Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building (CNMI Legislature), Capitol Hill, Saipan. Completed application and police clearance may be submitted to the Office of the Director or may be mailed to the Office of the Director; Legislative Bureau; P.O. Box 500586; Saipan, MP 96950. No telephone inquiries.

BRIDGE CAPITAL, LLC
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(01) **ONSITE CONSTRUCTION MANAGER (Full-time)**

Summary
The onsite construction manager plans, directs and coordinates activities pertaining to the construction, renovation and maintenance of an assigned group of commercial and residential properties in accordance with company policies.

Qualifications and Experience

- You are able to plan, organize, direct, control and evaluate all phases of construction at the project sites.
- Your oral and written communication are excellent, thorough and attentive to details, able to prioritize and multitask, proactive and deadline-oriented.
- You are able to operate heavy equipment, machines, and hand held tools.
- You have the ability to read and understand work orders, safety rules, operating and maintenance instructions, and procedure manuals.
- You must be able to occasionally lift and move up to 50 pounds or more.

Responsibilities

- Assists the property management team with conducting property inspections.
- Coordinates with the property management team to ensure that the property complies with the codes and regulations of agencies such as insurance carrier and fire protection.
- Meets with existing building maintenance staff to ensure building codes are met, to perform a detailed inspection of property and to secure building historical plans.
- Evaluates specifications for plan procedures, start and completion dates, and staffing requirements for each phase of the construction project. Estimates the scope of work and obtains a minimum of three bids for comparison and completion of each job.
- Directs subcontractors and staff engaged in planning and executing work procedures.
- Inspects property and units under construction on a regular basis to ensure the work conforms to specifications, schedule and initiates any repair or replacement needs and/or adjustment of working procedures. Regularly communicates with the project team regarding unit and property status.
- Coordinates with the property management team regarding activities of maintenance and housekeeping staff.
- Provides simple estimates for the costs of materials and staffing for various construction and/or renovation projects.
- Reviews all invoices/purchase orders pertaining to the construction projects and submits all approved bills to the accounting department for processing and payment.
- Prepares simple construction budgets and timelines for all relevant projects.

Scope

- Applicants will be primarily based in our Saipan head office
- Salary Range

No phone calls please. Interested applicants must submit resume to our Bridge Capital office on Micro Beach Rd, Garapan or email to tania.mesa@bccnmi.com. Deadline to submit application will be Tuesday, January 31, 2017 at 5:00 pm.

Century Tours, Inc.
invites qualified U.S. worker candidates to apply for the following positions:

Accounting Assistant (1)
High School graduate or a GED Certificate. Some related work experience in tour operation, sales or service related work is preferred. Must be proficient with Microsoft Office applications such as Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel; and proficient with Accounting software such as the SAP-R3 FICO (Financial and Controlling) and POS-RMS (Point of Sale) systems to record, store, and analyze information. Flexible under pressure. High attention to detail. Able to work independently with detailed projects. Has an aptitude for learning. Must be able and willing to work evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Accountant (2)
High School graduate or a GED Certificate. Some related work experience in tour operation, sales or service related work is preferred. Must be proficient with Microsoft Office applications such as Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel; and proficient with Accounting software such as the SAP-R3 FICO (Financial and Controlling) and POS-RMS (Point of Sale) systems to record, store, and analyze information. Flexible under pressure. High attention to detail. Able to work independently with detailed projects. Has an aptitude for learning. Must be able and willing to work evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Interested applicants may send their applications to ceti_recruitment@tanholdings.com. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than **February 13, 2017**. Applications for Employment are available at the Front Office of Century Tours Inc. located on the Ground Floor of Kanoa Resort, Beach Road, Susupe Village. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Without Embiid, 76ers upset Griffin and Clippers, 121-110



PHILADELPHIA (AP)—M. Night Shyamalan could not have scripted a twist ending from his courtside seat as implausible as this one:

The 76ers pulled off a stunner over the 30-win Clippers without injured center Joel Embiid.

Nerlens Noel scored 19 points, Richaun Holmes had 18 and Philadelphia beat Los Angeles 121-110 on Tuesday night.

The Sixers rallied from 19 points down and proved yet again they are now a team trying to win games instead of tank seasons.

"We come here, put in the work every day and it's starting to show for us on the floor," Holmes said.

Embiid, out with a left knee contusion, waved his arms from the bench as the crowd shouted "Trust the Process" in the waning minutes.

Noel had three blocked shots in Embiid's spot and the Sixers hit 10 3-pointers to spur the second-half rally.

The Sixers are 3-10 without Embiid this season.

Blake Griffin, a five-time All-Star, scored 12 points on 3-of-11 shooting in his first game since Dec. 18. He averaged 21.2 points, 8.8 rebounds and 4.7 assists this season, and played in 26 of the Clippers' first 28 games.

Jamal Crawford hit six 3s and scored 27 points for the Clippers. J.J. Redick had 22.

"This one's more disheartening," Crawford said. "You have to put those games away, by any means. This one's on us."

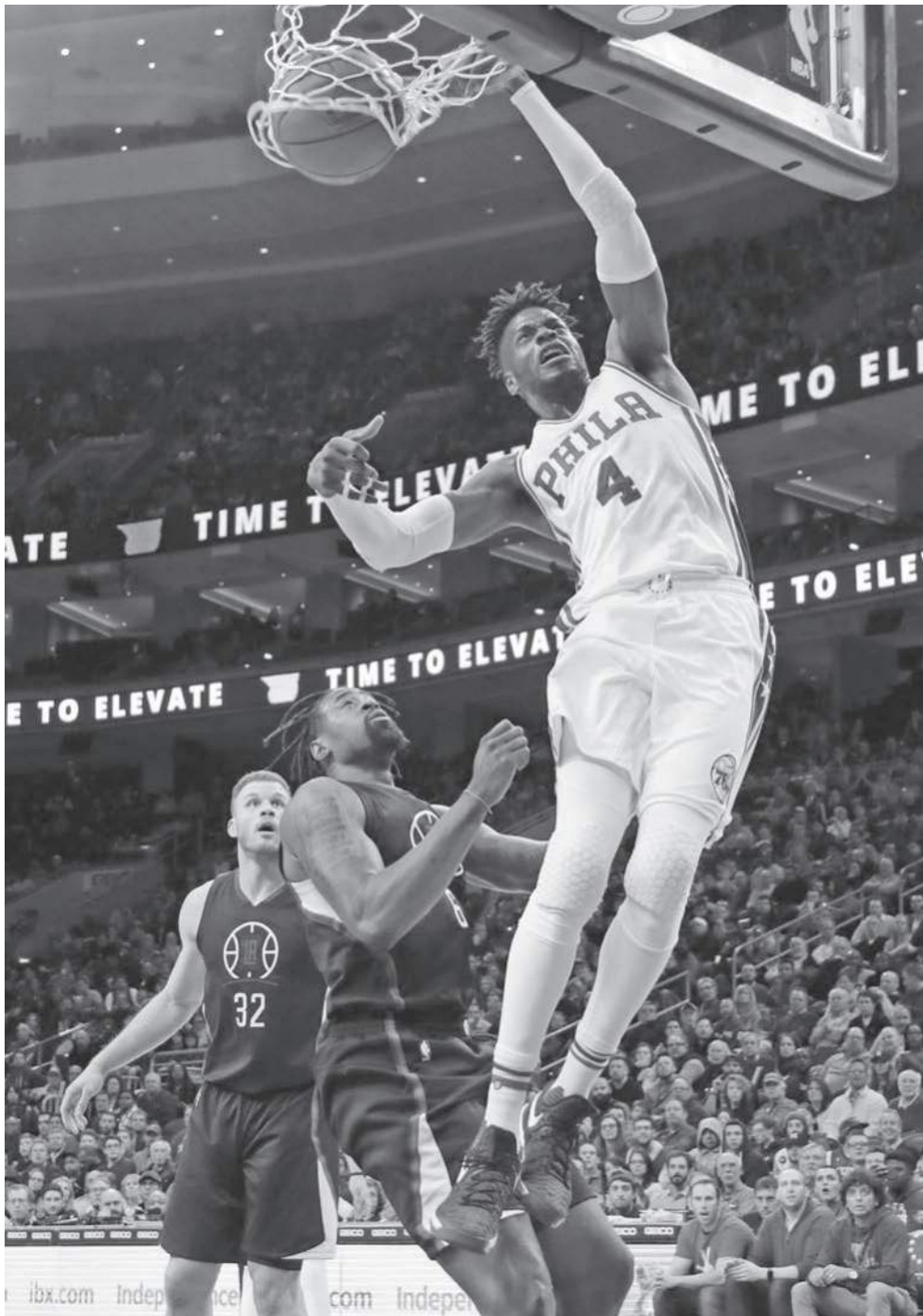
Embiid continues to be hampered by the knee he hurt on Friday night. He's scheduled to sit out Wednesday night's game at Milwaukee because he does not play in one game of back-to-back sets.

The Sixers listed 17,591 at the Wells Fargo Center on Tuesday, another stout crowd for a franchise coming off one of the worst stretches of seasons in NBA history. Embiid's growing popularity has forced the Sixers to at least consider playing him only the home game when they play on consecutive nights.

"We are mindful that our fans want to see Joel play," coach Brett Brown said. "It's one of several layers that influence the decision on when to play Joel. But it's certainly on our mind to do the right thing by our fans."

While fans are crushed when Embiid doesn't play, Brown said other Sixers see his absence as their opportunity to develop and contribute.

"I think those type of words come to my mind more than 'woe is me' stuff," Brown said. "That's not it. That's not it at all. We wind our guys up



and we play NBA basketball and here we go."

Jahlil Okafor missed his chance to start and was held out with right knee soreness. Noel made the most of his first start of the season, and Dario Saric and Holmes were clutch off the bench.

The Clippers made 12 of 19 3-pointers in the first half and rolled to a 19-point lead until the Sixers got going in the third.

DeAndre Jordan missed four straight free throws—the last one on an airball—that sent the crowd into a frenzy not heard in Philly in some time. Noel finished an alley-oop and Sergio Rodriguez's fast-break layup gave the Sixers an 87-86 lead.

The 76ers rallied from 19 down to win for the first time since Dec. 23, 2014, at Miami.

"You get a 19-point lead, nothing's guaranteed, but you've got to secure it," Clippers assistant Mike Woodson said.

Spurs 108, Raptors 106

In Toronto, LaMarcus Aldridge scored 21 points while Patty Mills added 18 off the bench as the San Antonio Spurs beat the Toronto Raptors 108-106 on Tuesday night

for their fifth straight victory.

Without Kawhi Leonard, Tony Parker and Pau Gasol, the Spurs completed a season sweep of the Raptors following a 110-82 home victory earlier this month.

Kyle Lowry had 30 points

and reserve Terrence Ross added 21 for the Raptors, who have lost four in a row for the first time since March 4-10, 2015.

Wizards 123, Celtics 108

In Washington, Bradley Beal

Philadelphia 76ers' Nerlens Noel (4) dunks the ball against Los Angeles Clippers' DeAndre Jordan (6) as Blake Griffin (32) looks on during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2017, in Philadelphia.

scored 13 of his 31 points in the fourth quarter as Washington extended its home winning streak to 14 games with a victory over Boston.

John Wall added 27 points and Markieff Morris had 19 points and 11 rebounds as the Wizards never trailed while scoring their most points this season.

It came in a game they openly labeled a grudge match, even arriving at the Verizon Center in funeral-themed black clothing.

Isaiah Thomas scored 25 points and had 13 assists, but shot 1 of 7 in the fourth quarter in Boston's third straight loss.

Bulls 100, Magic 92

In Orlando, Florida, Dwyane Wade scored 21 points and Jimmy Butler added 20 as Chicago beat Orlando for its second straight victory.

Facing an Orlando team that was missing three of its four top guards, Wade and Butler took full advantage with drives to the basket and pull-up jumpers as the Bulls pulled away in the fourth quarter.

The turnover-prone Magic simply could not keep pace with a Bulls team that is going through point guard issues of its own with the surprising benching of Michael Carter-Williams.

Nikola Vucevic had 20 points for the Magic, who have dropped two straight and 11 of their last 14 games.

Timberwolves 112, Suns 111

In Phoenix, Andrew Wiggins sank an 18-foot pull-up jumper at the buzzer to give Minnesota a victory over Phoenix.

Wiggins, who scored 31 points, made one of two free throws with 12.1 seconds remaining to put the Timberwolves ahead. P.J. Tucker sank two from the foul line to give Phoenix a 111-110 lead with 6.3 seconds left, just enough time for Wiggins' game-winner.

Devin Booker overcame a slow start to make 5 of 6 shots in the fourth quarter, three of them 3-pointers, for 26 points for the Suns.

Tyson Chandler had a season-high 22 points and grabbed 17 rebounds for Phoenix. Eric Bledsoe added 18 points, including a three-point play that tied it at 109 with 1:05 remaining.

Nuggets 103, Jazz 93

In Denver, Nikola Jokic had 23 points and 11 rebounds, Jameer Nelson scored seven of his 17 points in the last four minutes and Denver held on to beat Utah.

The Nuggets led by 17 with a minute left in the third quarter before the Jazz made their push. Rudy Gobert scored eight of his 11 in the fourth and Boris Diaw's reverse layup cut the lead to 92-88 with 2:49 remaining.

But Denver countered with an 8-0 run and Nelson's 3-pointer pushed the lead back to 100-88 with 1:17 remaining. The Nuggets held on from there for their fifth win in seven games.

Darrell Arthur added 16 points off the bench.

Derrick Favors scored 18, George Hill had 17 and Diaw added 16 for Utah.

LeBron miffed with direction of slumping Cavaliers

CLEVELAND (AP)—LeBron James has alluded to flaws with Cleveland's roster all season.

He got much more detailed about the cracks and crevices in the NBA champions after their fifth loss in seven games.

James urged the team's front office to do more after a 124-122 loss Monday night to the New Orleans Pelicans, who were missing star forward Anthony Davis.

"We're not better than last year, from a personnel standpoint," he said. "We're a top-heavy team. ... I just hope we're not satisfied as an organization."

On Tuesday, James went on Twitter to explain that his comments weren't directed at Cavs general manager David Griffin or Cleveland's coaching staff.

"I not mad or upset at man-

agement cause Griff and staff have done a great job, I just feel we still need to improve in order to repeat..." James tweeted. "If that's what we wanna do."

After a four-hour break from social media, James tweeted again.

"Lately taken L's (losses), but very soon we'll bounce back," he said. "Boy, frustrating as hell, I know my team we'll bounce back. If you a real one ... then you know how to bounce back."

After speaking to a larger group of reporters on Monday night, James saved his most biting comments for Cleveland's traveling beat writers.

The Cavs haven't played well for weeks, and James felt the need to unload.

"It's been a (lousy) 2017 so far," he said.

His biggest issue is with

the current makeup of the Cavs, who have been hurt most by allowing backup point guard Matthew Dellavedova to leave as a free agent and injuries to forward Chris Andersen and guard J.R. Smith. James watched the Golden State Warriors retool after losing in last year's NBA Finals and feels the Cavs haven't done enough to address their biggest needs.

James said he's expressed his opinions directly to Griffin, who recently obtained Kyle Korver in a trade with Atlanta.

"We need a (expletive) playmaker. I'm not saying you can just go find one, like you can go outside and see trees. I didn't say that," James said.

Griffin has an open roster spot and two small trade exceptions. The trading deadline is Feb. 23 and free agents

can be signed until March 1 to be eligible for the playoffs.

Now in his 14th season, James knows his time to win more titles is dwindling.

"I don't know what we got to offer," James said of possible deals. "I just know me, personally. I don't got no time to waste. I'll be 33 in the winter, and I ain't got time to waste."

It remains to be seen whether James' public rant will spark the team. But James also knows that the Cavs will do anything within reason to accommodate him. What King James wants, he usually gets.

Despite their recent slide, the Cavs still have the best record in the Eastern Conference.

Cleveland hosts Sacramento on Wednesday as well as Brooklyn and Oklahoma City later this week.

Rest over as Patriots begin Super Bowl prep for Falcons



FOXBOROUGH, Mass.
(AP) — Bill Belichick is on to the Atlanta Falcons.

After taking a day to review and recharge following his team's AFC championship game win over Pittsburgh, the New England coach said Tuesday that the coaching staff's preparations are fully underway for the Super Bowl.

The Patriots are preparing to make their seventh Super Bowl berth during the Belichick era, making them veterans at this point in handling the various logistics involved with the big game. Belichick said it's helped them turn the page "about as quickly as we could."

"We're on to Atlanta now as a coaching staff. We're deep in the middle of them," he said.

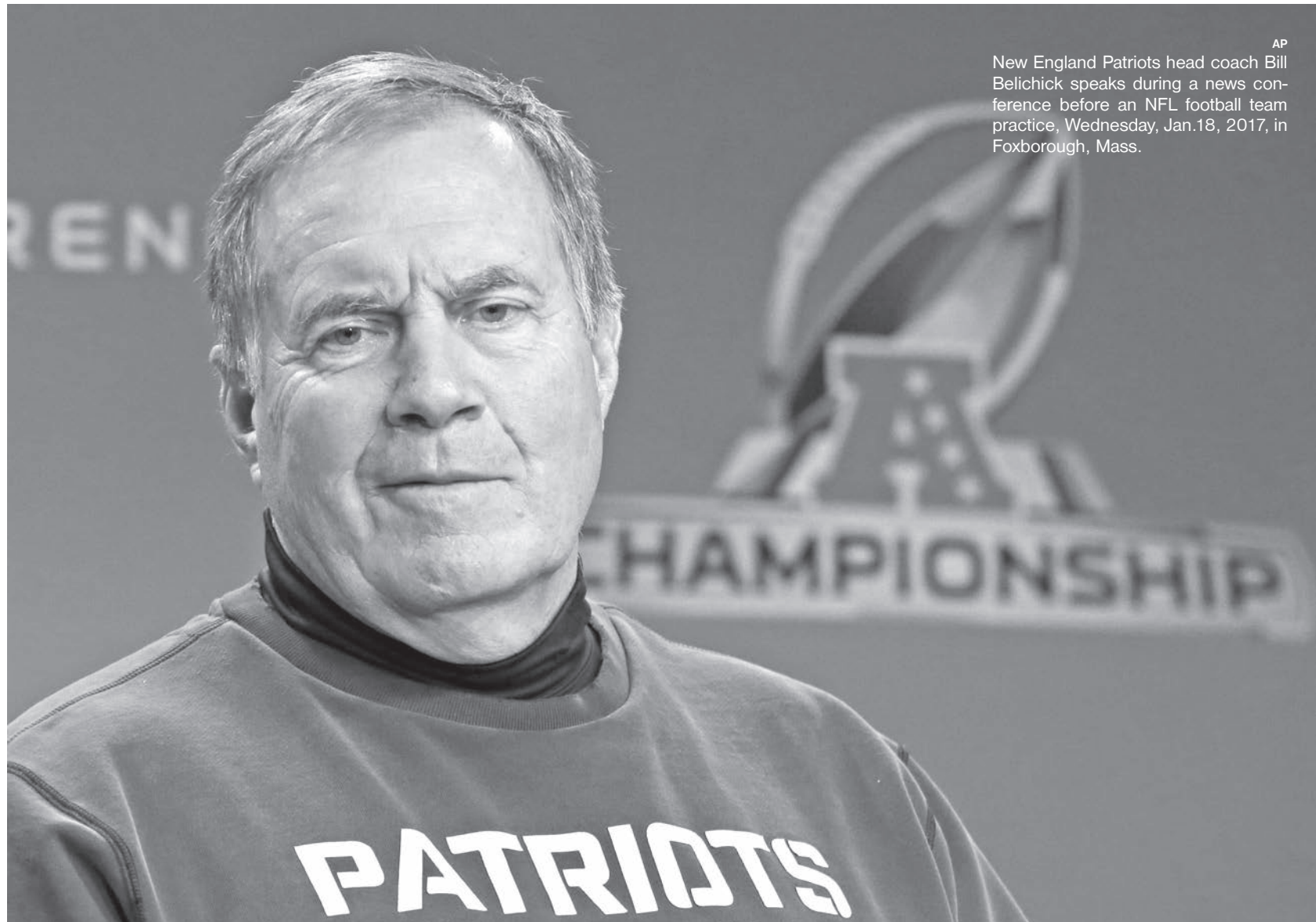
New England has fond memories of the Super Bowl played in Houston, having won in 2004 on Adam Vinatieri's field goal in the closing seconds to beat the Carolina Panthers.

"There was a big matchup against our kind of 'no-name' offensive line and a very good defensive front that the Panthers had," Belichick recalled.

But Belichick says that's the furthest thing from his mind as his team prepares for a Falcons team it hasn't seen much on film this season with just five common opponents (San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle, Arizona and Denver).

The Patriots do have some familiarity with Falcons coach Dan Quinn, who was defensive coordinator of the Seattle Seahawks when the teams met in the Super Bowl two years ago.

"They have some of their own characteristics and of



AP
New England Patriots head coach Bill Belichick speaks during a news conference before an NFL football team practice, Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2017, in Foxborough, Mass.

course the players are different, so that makes it different," Belichick said. "But schematically there is quite a bit of carryover."

One of the key differences, he said, is that the Falcons seem to bring a little more pressure than Seattle ran.

Belichick also sees similarities in the schemes, which rely on players of similar skillsets such as Seattle's Kam Chancellor and Atlanta's Keanu Neal.

"Go right down the line—they're similar," Belichick said.

This will also be the second straight game that the Patriots defense will have to contend with a dynamic receiver.

Julio Jones had nine receptions for 180 yards and two scores in Atlanta's NFC championship game win over Green Bay, but will be challenged by a New England secondary that has given up just two passing touchdowns in the playoffs.

"He's probably just one of the most dynamic players in the league," Patriots defensive coordinator Matt Patricia said. "I usually don't wind up comparing him to other people; I wind up comparing other people to him just because of his skill set and his ability."

The team will have meetings Wednesday and then return to the practice field on Thursday.

Patricia is in his fifth season leading the Patriots' defense,

but has been a New England assistant since 2004.

While he's witnessed the interactions of several different teams in that time, he said this group has a vibe in the locker room that is unique.

It is a dynamic that he's looking forward to seeing grow over these next two weeks.

"If you play at this point in the season, you play this late in the season and you're blessed enough to do that, I

think the guys just have that kind of special bond," he said.

"They have a good time with each other but they also know when we're in the meetings, we're grinding, we're working, we're studying."

"When those guys communicate like that and they have that kind of open dialect back and forth, I think it just kind of enhances everything that goes on, hopefully, when you get out to the practice field and to the field itself."

PITTSBURGH (AP)—As a general philosophy, Pittsburgh Steelers coach Mike Tomlin treats each individual season as its own unique entity, with no direct through line from one to the next.

Considering his quarterback's current state of mind, probably a good idea.

While Tomlin believes the Steelers have a "championship caliber" team a couple days removed from an ugly blowout loss to New England in the AFC title game, his franchise's most important player isn't guaranteeing a return in 2017. Roethlisberger said during his weekly appearance on 93.7 The Fan that he needs time to reflect before coming back for a 14th season.

"I'm going to take this off-season to evaluate, to consider all options, to consider health and family and things like that and just kind of take some time away to evaluate next season, if there's going to be a

Tomlin not alarmed as Roethlisberger ponders future

next season, all those things," Roethlisberger said.

Roethlisberger will turn 35 in March and is under contract through 2020. Knee injuries have forced him to miss time in each of the last two seasons and while Pittsburgh ripped off nine straight wins on its way to the AFC North title and its first appearance in the NFL's final four in six years, Roethlisberger wasn't terribly sharp. He threw 10 interceptions over Pittsburgh's final seven games, though the two-time Super Bowl winner didn't receive much help on Sunday against the Patriots, as dropped passes, a groin injury to running back Le'Veon Bell and occasionally questionable playcalling—not to mention Tom Brady at the peak of his powers—played significant factors in the worst postseason loss of his career.

While Roethlisberger cautioned he's "not by any means

saying he's not coming back," the father of three considered it "prudent" to take a step back before deciding if he has the energy to make another push.

That's fine by Tomlin, who wasn't alarmed by Roethlisberger's admission mostly because they've had similar discussions in the past.

"That's football," Tomlin said. "Obviously I'm hopeful that he returns and the potential of his return or not returning will weigh heavily on our planning. That's life. He's the most significant component of what it is that we do. We'll plan and react accordingly."

Roethlisberger is one of three Steelers remaining from the team that beat Seattle in the Super Bowl 11 years ago. The exodus includes tight end and Roethlisberger's longtime friend Heath Miller, who retired last February at age 33.

It seems unlikely Roeth-

lisberger—who has three seasons left on the five-year, \$100 million deal he signed in March 2015—would walk away considering the Steelers (13-6) figure to be in the mix again next season. Wide receiver Antonio Brown is still under contract, Bell will become a free agent but is expected to stick around and Martavis Bryant will be eligible for reinstatement after missing all of 2016 for violating the NFL's substance abuse policy. The offensive line that allowed Roethlisberger to be sacked just 17 times in 14 games will remain intact.

There's plenty to be optimistic about. And the oddsmakers don't seem concerned about Roethlisberger's intentions, making the Steelers the early second choice (along with Green Bay) to reach next year's Super Bowl in Minneapolis.

Some other takeaways

as Tomlin put the finishing touches on a successful if not triumphant year.

BATTERED BELL: Tomlin said Bell had been dealing with the groin injury that limited him to just six carries against the Patriots for some time but that the All-Pro had found a way to manage it without missing practice. Tomlin said he didn't feel the problem was significant enough to put Bell on the NFL-mandated injury report, pointing out the entire team could be placed on the report due to various bumps and bruises associated with playing four-plus months.

BROWN NEEDS TO DELIVER: Tomlin downplayed the notion that Brown needs to become a more mature player even though Tomlin publicly chastised Brown's decision to livestream portions of the lock-

er room celebration following a divisional round victory over Kansas City. "He's a dynamic player (and) there are responsibilities that come with being a dynamic player," said Tomlin, who added outlining the responsibilities is "normal operating business" for all players.

SEE YOU IN 2017?: Linebacker James Harrison will become a free agent in March and turns 39 in May but has already publicly talked about making another run.

SECOND GUESSING: Tomlin became the eighth coach to win 100 games in his first 10 seasons, remarkable in most places, but maybe not in Pittsburgh. It's a standard Tomlin embraces. "My goal was to be world champs and we weren't that," Tomlin said. "You can describe that in whatever way you choose to. In that vein I've only been successful one time in 10 years and I'm OK with that."

Easy victories for BSI Aces, GSM Masters

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Playoff-bound BSI Aces and GSM Masters are not resting on their laurels as proven in their convincing wins against separate foes in the 2016 Masters Baseball League.

The BSI Aces topped Papa Bears, 18-7, in last Thursday's match at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield, while the GSM Masters eased past Rubak last Monday, 31-4. The BSI Aces improved their record to 7-2 and have one more game left in the double-round robin regular season, while the GSM Masters are done with their elimination assignments and earned a 7-3

mark. The GSM Masters and the BSI Aces are in the playoffs with the Old Stars (7-2), while Papa Bears (3-5) and Saisei (3-6) will battle for the last ticket to the next round. Rubak (1-9) is out of contention.

The BSI Aces set up the easy win over Papa Bears after taking control of the match at the top of the third inning, making up for their silence in the first two innings. They scored seven runs in that frame, behind the two-RBI double of Ben Mesa and Reno Celis' two-RBI single for a 7-2 advantage. The three other runs came from a sacrifice out, a passed ball, and a Papa

Bears' error. The Papa Bears' two runs, on the other hand, were courtesy of RBI singles from Ben Cabrera and Ric David.

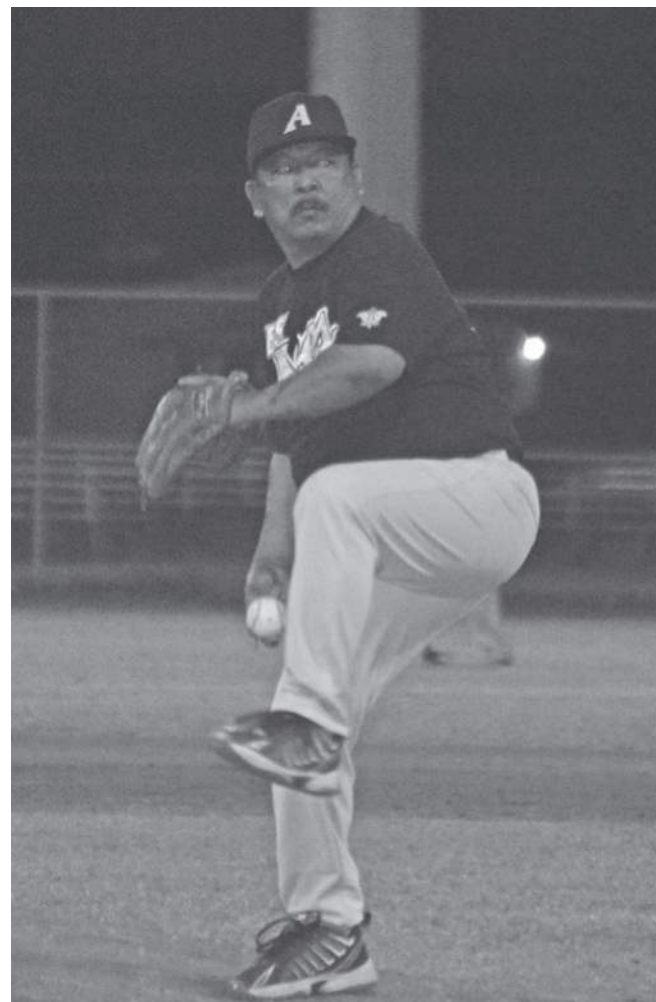
The Papa Bears continued their struggle at the plate in the next two innings, logging only one run, while the BSI Aces added five more to extend their lead after five and a half innings, 14-3. A four-run bottom of the sixth gave some life to Papa Bears' dying chances of getting back into the game.

However, the BSI Aces countered with four runs, too at the top of the seventh and finished off the Papa Bears with a 1-2-3 inning at the bot-

tom. Closer Mel Sakisat, who came in for Ben Duenas at the start of the bottom of the last inning struck out Emory Fitial, making up for the single he earlier gave up to leadoff batter Eric David. Fitial was then tagged out at third for the second out and the BSI Aces ended up with a double play with third batter Nick Reyes also beaten to second.

Meanwhile, in last Monday's game, Ben Hocog made two homers, and Ken Kalen had one to tow the GSM Masters to the early win.

Hocog also scored four RBIs, while Kalen had three, the same number that Jerry Ayuyu had in the lopsided win.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Ben Duenas pitches for the BSI Aces during the bottom of the fifth inning of their game against the Papa Bears in the 2016 Masters Baseball League last Thursday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Williams, Lucic-Baroni win at throwback Australian Open



MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—

The last time Serena Williams and Mirjana Lucic-Baroni played each other, nearly two decades ago at Wimbledon, they were both precocious teenagers just starting their tennis careers.

Now, the two 30-something women will meet again in the semifinals of the Australian Open, a tournament that's starting to have a distinct throwback feel.

Serena Williams, 35, reached her 10th consecutive Grand Slam semifinal with a 6-2, 6-3 win over Johanna Konta on Wednesday, while Lucic-Baroni, 34, upset fifth-seeded Karolina Pliskova 6-4, 3-6, 6-4, to advance to her first major semifinal in nearly 18 years.

"Thirties is the new 10,"

Williams said. "No matter what happens, someone 34 or older will be in the final."

With 36-year-old Venus Williams also reaching the semifinals, it's the first time in the Open era that two players aged 35 or older have reached the final four of a Grand Slam. Venus plays another American, CoCo Vandeweghe, in her semifinal on Thursday.

On the men's side, 35-year-old Roger Federer and 31-year-old Stan Wawrinka have also booked spots in the semis. Thirty-year-old Rafael Nadal will attempt to join them when he plays Milos Raonic later Wednesday.

Grigor Dimitrov beat David Goffin 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 to reach his second Grand Slam semifinal. He made it that far at Wimbledon in 2014.

Serena Williams was tested by Konta in the second set when the British player

broke her to go up 2-1. But Williams broke back at love to level the score at 3-all and saved another break point in her next service game before closing out the match.

Williams finished with 10 aces, but only connected on 45 percent of her first serves overall.

"The main focus is actually my serve," said Williams, who is aiming for a record 23rd Grand Slam title. "I got a little frustrated, but then I just told myself, 'Serena, stop complaining. Don't be Baby Rena out here.'"

Lucic-Baroni advanced to the last four at a major for the first time since her run to the Wimbledon semifinals in 1999 at the age of 17.

The last time she made it this far, Lucic-Baroni also had to face a woman with 22 majors—Steffi Graf. Graf won their semifinal match,

but fell short in her bid to win her 23rd major title against Lindsay Davenport.

The 79th-ranked Lucic-Baroni is surprised she is getting another chance at this stage of her career.

She and Pliskova combined for 14 service breaks in an up-and-down match before the Croatian left the court midway through the third set for treatment on her heavily taped left leg.

When she returned, she won eight straight points to hold and get the final break of the match and then put a rosary around her neck to serve it out.

"I know this means a lot to every player to reach the semifinals, but to me, this is just overwhelming," she said, in tears, after the match. "This has truly made my life and everything bad that happened, it has made it OK."

SWEEP

From Page 28

contributed 9.

Duplicating IT&E's double-digit victory was Sun Palace, which crushed Jingle Ballers, 30-11. Jeralyn Castillo and Friendly Joy Pena teamed up in powering Sun Palace past the Jingle Ballers after regis-

tering 13 points apiece.

In the boys U16 division, MHS pounded Gen Cup, 64-40, to boost its playoff bid.

MHS now has a 4-2 record to tie Rollers 1 in second place behind the unbeaten Sonics. Only the Top 4 teams after the round-robin elimination will advance to the playoffs.

Jediael Manalo again paced

MHS' win after logging 14 points. E.J. Abejo and Sunjoon Tenorio backed Manalo up after chipping in 12 and 11 markers, respectively.

Chang Zhao had 14 points for Gen Cup, which dropped to a 1-4 record and is out of contention.

Also likely to join Gen Cup in the showers are the Rollers 2

and Ol'Aces 1 despite the latter's 45-27 victory in the battle of winless squads last weekend.

The Ol'Aces 1 lost its first three games before beating Rollers 2, which holds a dismal 0-5 record in the eight-team field. Duncan Laxa helped the Ol'Aces 1 snap its skid after firing 16 points in their victory over Rollers 2.

LEE

From Page 28

today when she takes on the No. 6 seed Nina Paripovich for one of two semis berths at the lower half of the draw. The Commonwealth player is eyeing revenge against the Kiwi netter, who along with compatriot Emilia Price defeated Lee and Fiji's Mulan Kamoe in the semifinals of the doubles event in the Wilson Tennis Canterbury ITF last week in Christchurch.

Paripovich will face Lee for the second time following her

hard-earned win against Japan's Misaki Kobayashi in Round 3. The Kiwi dropped the closely fought opening set, 6-7 (5), but avoided elimination after prevailing in the last two, 6-3, 6-4.

Besides Lee and Paripovich, the sixth other qualifiers in the quarterfinals are all seeded players, too. The list includes top-ranked Mana Kawamura, No. 3 Risa Fukutoku, and No. 8 Momoko Nagato of Japan, No. 7 Jenny Wong and No. 5 Justine Jeong of Hong Kong, and No. 4 Oleksandra Kalachiva of New Zealand.

In the doubles, all quarterfinalists are also ranked teams with the No. 7 seed Lee and Kamoe making the grade after ousting New Zealand's Ivy Mclean and Sarah Weekley, 6-1, 6-4. The Pacific Oceania players are at the upper half of the draw and will have the toughest assignment in the quarterfinals as they duel No. 1 seed Kawamura and Fukutoku. The Japanese pair advanced to the Round of 8 after downing No. 15 seed and New Zealand's Amelia Lawson and Anderson, 6-3, 6-4.

If Lee and Kamoe pull off an upset over their Japanese opponents, they will face in the semifinals the winner in the quarterfinal game between the pairs of No. 13 Sophie Michl and Momoko Nagato and No. 12 Yuna Ohashi Jiho Shin.

The other Round of 8 pairings will have Australia's Maggie Pearce and Tully Richter challenging fellow unranked players Sumire Kimura and Miku Nakane of Japan and No. 10 Sophia Fry and Skyler Grishuk meeting No. 2 tandem of Leong and Wong.

OL'ACES

From Page 28

ter turned the Ol'Aces' 44-37 halftime lead to a 70-54 advantage, going into the fourth.

Down by double digits and with its finals hopes slowly fading away, Ace Hardware leaned on Marvin Rabauliman to rally back the team. Rabauliman, who missed Ace Hardware's first three playoff games, scored 14 points in the final canto, but these were not enough to save his team from elimination.

The Ol'Aces countered Rabauliman's one-man show by drawing timely baskets from multiple players to withstand Ace Hardware's comeback bid in the fourth canto and arrange a finals duel with Saipan Apparel.

Ace Hardware missed a finals trip after failing to sustain its good start against the Ol'Aces. Sid Quan fired up early for Ace Hardware, recording 10 points to lift his squad to a 24-19 advantage.

Quan was then held to two field goals in the second period, while Jack Lizama played better in that period, tallying 8 points to finish the half with 12 markers and help the Ol'Aces grab the driver's seat at the break. Five other Ol'Aces players hit the board in the second quarter, while only Quan knocked in more than a field goal for Ace Hardware.

Ace Hardware picked up its

scoring in the third, but failed to put the clamps on Barcinas, whose impressive outside shooting was perfect timing as the Ol'Aces played without gunner Preston Basa for the second straight time. Basa is still nursing an injury he sustained from a training session last week.

With Barcinas catching fire in the third period, the Ol'Aces built enough cushion to survive Ace Hardware's rally in the fourth.

Besides Barcinas, Lizama and Freddie Pelisamen also broke into double figures for the Ol'Aces. Lizama had 17 points, while Pelisamen chipped in 16, and five other Ol'Aces players added at least 4 points apiece.

Quan led Ace Hardware with his 25 markers, while Rabauliman contributed 18. Ken Viray was the third Ace Hardware player to score in twin digits with his 11 points, but he could not nail baskets in streaks and made no more than two field goals in each of the four quarters.

Ol'Aces 88 — Barcinas 20, Lizama 17, Pelisamen 16, Iguel 7, Santos 7, Libuw 6, Nakashima 4, Deleon Guerrero 4, Iginoef 3, Rangamar 3.

Ace Hardware 83 — Quan 25, Rabauliman 18, Viray 11, Evans 6, Brennan 6, Rosario 6, J. Sablan 3, Younis 2, Lauron 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-24, 44-37, 70-56, 88-83.

2016 SEDA Winter/Spring season

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ



The 6JMS Dragon Warriors are the regular season champions in the Fanihi B Division of the 2016 Saipan Electronic Darts Association Winter/Spring season. The ceremony was held at Charley's Cabaret of the Pacific Islands Club.



The 6JMS Himawari were among the teams that competed in the Tuesday B Division.



The 6JMS Mafia I won the A Division.



The 9 Eleven Heavy Bombers captured both the regular season and Bud Light Cup trophies in the Master's Division.



The 6JMS 80 Proofers were among the teams that competed in the Fanihi B Division.



Tuesday B Division champions 9 Eleven Strikers.



The Hi Out category winners.



Some of the members of the Oleai Shockers that competed in the A Division.



Gilbert Gatmaitan, right, leads the players that earned their promotion last Sunday. Gatmaitan was promoted from the A Division to the Master's class.



Without Embiid,
76ers upset Griffin
and Clippers,
121-110

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Rest over as
Patriots begin
Super Bowl prep
for Falcons

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Carol Lee is in the quarterfinals of the singles and doubles events in the 2017 Tecnifibre Tennis Central Championships in New Zealand.

Lee eases way to q'finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Carol Lee is two steps away from reaching the finals of the both the singles and doubles events in the 2017 Tecnifibre Tennis Central Championships.

Lee is now in the quarterfinals after prevailing in the third round matches yesterday at the Renouf Tennis Centre in Wellington, New Zealand.

In the singles event, the No. 2 seed Lee gained her third straight win following a sweep of No. 14-ranked Otoh Aoki of Japan, 6-1, 6-1. The



CNMI bet has yet to drop a single set in her three victories as she also dominated New Zealand's Jourdan Craig, 6-0, 6-0, and Tamara Anderson, 6-3, 6-4, in the first two rounds.

Lee's perfect record will be tested

See LEE on Page 26

Sweep for Sonics; Fiesta still perfect

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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The 670 Sonics earned an immaculate mark in the regular season of the 2016 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament, while Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan also kept its undefeated record at the completion of last Saturday's matches at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

The Sonics finished the round-robin elimination of the boys U16 division with a 7-0 card following a 65-46 rout of Rollers 1 (4-2), while Fiesta Resort improved its record to 4-0 after a similar easy victory over Shirley's Coffee Shop (0-6), 24-2, in the women's division.

Khristian Itaas led the Sonics' demolition of Rollers 1 after scoring 18 points. Bryan De Guzman and Rafael Ordonia also broke into double figures, providing enough support to Itaas after making 11 markers each.

The Sonics, who are already in the semi-

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Fiesta Resort's Chevy Kate Alipio pulls up for a shot against Shirley's Coffee Shop's Joy Jones during the second quarter of their women's division game in the TanHoldings holiday caging last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.



finals, took a 38-28 advantage after the first half and kept going in the second to pad their lead.

Fiesta Resort was also ahead in the first half, 10-1, and was

never threatened as Shirley's played its worst game in the tournament after failing to make a single field goal in the match.

Shirley's never got into its rhythm and nearly forfeited the game as only three players were available at the start time. Fiesta Resort agreed to give its foes more time to wait for enough reinforcements and a few minutes later three more Shirley's players came.

Meanwhile, four other games were played last Saturday, while matches last Monday were rescheduled due to the damage in one of the rims at the gym.

In the women's division, IT&E and Sun Palace coasted past their respective foes.

IT&E whipped QQ Rent A Car, 53-28, for the former's fourth straight win in five games. QQ Rent A Car fell to a 1-3 record.

Jan Travilla top-scored in IT&E's 25-point win against QQ Rent A Car after posting 12 points, while Karleen Reyes

See SWEEP on Page 26

Ol'Aces get last finals berth

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The Mariana Islands Basketball Federation's Inaugural Men's

Outdoor League is now down to two teams following the Ol'Aces' 88-83 victory over Ace Hardware last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Ol'Aces advanced to the finals against Saipan Apparel, which holds the twice-to-beat advantage in the championship round after sweeping its first three games in the playoffs. Game 1 of the finals will be played today, while Game 2, if necessary if set for tomorrow. Both matches are scheduled to start at 7pm.

Dan Barcinas, who scored only 6 points in the Ol'Aces' loss to Saipan Apparel last week, 83-88, for the battle for the first finals ticket, stepped up in the make-or-break after earning 20 points. He gave the Ol'Aces the sizeable lead in the pivotal third period after drilling five triples. His 15-point explosion in the penultimate quar-

See OL'ACES on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Ol'Aces' Jack Lizama goes up for a layup against Saipan Apparel's Pete Lizama during their playoff game in the MIBF outdoor caging at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. The Ol'Aces and Saipan Apparel meet in Game 1 of the finals tonight.